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COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON BRITISH HONDURAS

FOR THE YEAR

1946

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LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

PART I

General Review

THE comparative remoteness of British Honduras from the scene of war did not preserve her from the common economic and trading upset, and she shared with other countries the resulting shortages of all classes of goods, particularly of that equipment which makes development possible. The stifling of all ideas for economic progress in the early years of war was not to continue indefinitely and, as victory drew near, minds began to turn to the future prospects of the Colony. The legislators, mindful of past misfortunes and failures, of the denudation of the most accessible forests, and of the none too promising view taken by experts of agricultural possibilities, were, nevertheless, convinced that with a common will and determination something more could be done to increase productivity and to set the finances of the Colony on a more independent footing. It was in the following terms that the Governor, Sir John Hunter, announced in June, 1945, his intention to set up a Committee to review and advise on future development:

‘In compliance with the personal wishes of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I have appointed a Development Committee for the Colony, and I am inviting the Elected members of this Council to choose two of your number elected or nominated, to represent the Unofficial members of the Legislative Council on the Committee. The work of the Committee will be to draw up, what has been described as a “sketch plan”, the first attempt at a blue print, for the development of the Colony over a period of years. In the past, it has been the unhappy experience of many Colonial administrations that major public works, and capital expenditure on measures of development, have been decided upon haphazardly; and due regard for the necessity of steady, co-ordinated progress, without those erratic tergiversations between extravagance and parsimony which inevitably result from a too close pre-occupation with day to day cash balances, has been entirely overlooked.’

As a pointer to the main pre-occupation of the Government and the Legislative Council, during 1946, it was significant that a most comprehensive report on all Development, Social and Welfare proposals was issued by the Development Planning Committee early in January, 1946. The main problems were summarized in the following terms:

‘First is the provision of basic utilities such as roads, water supplies, sewage systems, drainage schemes and pier.

‘Second is the beginning of an adequately planned and long continued scheme of reafforestation and of forest control—and also of the provision of the machinery for a type of agriculture appropriate to the needs of the people—the cost of labour, the soil and the climate and then of the available export markets.

‘Finally, while the physical environment is thus being made wholesome and productive the people are made ready to react to it in a forceful, steady and sustained social upsurge of progress by educational, health and housing projects.’

Their summary of projects considered as coming within the scope of Development and Welfare would involve an expenditure of ten million dollars, two and a half million of which they would allocate to the construction of roads, three quarters of a million to forestry, over a million to secondary and technical school education, four million to public health and housing and the balance to agriculture, social welfare and miscellaneous projects.

When, later in the year, it was necessary to determine the allocation of £600,000 granted from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for expending over a period of ten years, it was found that only four projects could be provided from this source—Water Supply for Belize, two road projects and a slum clearance scheme in the capital.

Associated with any plans for development was the question of the provision of funds, apart from the Development and Welfare allocation, and the Government, at the request of the Secretary of State, introduced an Income Tax bill, which it was hoped would increase the yield of income tax by fifty per cent. The bill was the subject of considerable argument and discussion before it was introduced and, in the event, was productive in the Council Chamber of one of the best debates which can ever have been heard in British Honduras. In proposing a motion, the purpose of which was to delay for six months the consideration of the bill, the whole field of recent constitutional history was surveyed, the expenditure on public works was questioned, and Government's alleged wasteful methods criticized. In one significant paragraph the proposer of the motion asserted:

‘We are, and I am sure that I speak for every Unofficial member of this Council Chamber today, not prepared to take a defeatist attitude with regard to the development of this Colony. Our faith in the future is unshakable. Until we know that there is nothing in this Colony worth developing, that this vast mass of land contains absolutely nothing that could bring to the people of this Colony a better standard of living and a better economic standard generally, until we know that, we shall not cease to do everything in our power to bring about the necessary measures for development of the Colony.’

The earnestness and the eloquence of the debate were matched by a dramatic, if abrupt, ending; the decision of Legislative Council to delay consideration of the bill was promptly met by the President rising to state that he would exercise his reserve powers, whereupon the Unofficial members left the Council Chamber. In a later statement to Legislative Council, the Governor outlined his reasons for passing the bill, emphasizing that with a substantial grant in aid of the administration, the Colony was not bearing its fair share of the burden while the rate of income tax in the Colony continued at such a comparatively low level.

Although no major Colonial Development and Welfare schemes were completed during the year, steady progress can be reported. The chief effort, the Belize-Cayo Road (Scheme D.38) which, when completed, will provide an important road link with the Peten Province of Guatemala, advanced a few more miles and only one bridge now remains to be constructed. The scheme for the rehabilitation of schools damaged or destroyed by the hurricane of 1942 has not yet been completed as the work is hampered by the shortage of materials. The use of stone or concrete for the reconstruction of a majority of the buildings has produced some of the best rural schools in the Caribbean.

Further groups of farm demonstrators were trained during the year from the grant for the extension of food production and purchases of good breeding bulls and boars were made to improve livestock.

Social Welfare suffered a set-back when in March the Welfare Officer returned to his native Colony and no suitable successor was found to carry on what can only be called the beginning of Social Welfare in British Honduras.

Early in the year reports were received that the world shortage of flour and rice had necessitated a scaling down of the United States allocations to the Colony. With considerable energy, steps were taken to rouse the people in the country districts to grow all the rice that was possible and the Government planted out 400 acres of forest land in a southern area of the Colony where the high rainfall most favours the production of rice. The seasonal nature of this branch of agriculture necessitated consideration of any suitable proposal which would retain workers and their families in the area where rice could be grown. The abundant supplies of cohune nuts available for collection in the district provided a partial solution and at the same time stimulated plans for the manufacture in the Colony of cohune nut oil.

That the economy of the Colony continued to be the most important subject is evidenced by the announcement in June, 1946, by the Governor, that a sum of £4,000 a year for two years would be set aside, from trust funds bequeathed for public purposes, for the purpose of securing a soil survey of the whole of the Colony. From the same source (The Baron Bliss Trust) there will be provided, as and when the necessary materials are forthcoming, a Cultural Institute to house the Library and Archaeological exhibits, and to become, as befits its name, a focal point for the cultural pursuits of the Colony. The cost of the plans which have been drawn up to provide for a water supply for Belize will be met by the trustees, and a desirable water-front scheme, to enable the continuation of a road on the south bank of the Belize River mouth, has also been initiated by the purchase in 1946 from the same funds of the necessary land.

Finally, the Officer Administering the Government after the departure of Sir John Hunter set up a Fiscal Revision Committee which was charged to review the Customs Tariff and other forms of taxation. The Committee was fortunate in having in its early deliberations the advice of Professor Beasley, Economic Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies.

Fears that social unrest would follow the return of many workers from the United Kingdom, the United States and the Panama Canal Zone were happily not realized, but those returning from Panama in 1945 introduced and organized a weekly lottery on numbers, which soon reached disquieting proportions. Accordingly, a Commission of Inquiry under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice was instituted.

The exhaustion, some months before the close of the year, of the amount provided by the Government for the purpose of stabilizing prices had the effect of aggravating the serious problem of rising prices, with the result that the cost of living index figure rose to almost double that of the basic year 1939. When the estimates for 1947 were considered in Legislative Council in November, the 1946 allocation for a price stabilization subsidy was continued, but the President expressed a desire for a plan of distribution to ensure that only the poor and needy benefited.

The anchoring in Belize Harbour of several British ships which had sailed from United Kingdom ports with British goods aboard was, to the people of British Honduras, the surest sign that the war-time isolation from the mother country was now at an end, and British products began to form a more solid proportion of the stocks of the principal stores. Though mahogany and cedar logs and lumber were still finding a most favourable United States market, it was nevertheless satisfying that some of it would return with these ships to the British timber trade. An increasing demand arose for certain secondary hardwoods and Jamaica continued to purchase all the pine lumber that could be extracted in the Colony. A sustained demand for coco-nuts and an excellent price were most satisfactory trading features until the last quarter when the price fell heavily as a result of the Philippine production becoming available. Similarly, there was a severe decline in the demand for chicle and crown gums.

In company with West Indian Colonies, the Government took advantage of a grant administered by the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies to take a population census in the Colony. The results showed that of the total population of nearly 60,000 over a third lived in Belize and less than half lived away from towns.

The anniversary of the 1798 action with the Spanish at St. George's Cay was celebrated with demonstrations of more than usual loyalty and patriotic fervour.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

At a Census taken in April, 1946, the population of the Colony was 59,149, and at the end of 1946 it was estimated to be 60,079, comprising 29,140 males and 31,061 females. Intermixing is such that racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but it may be said that the Northern and Western districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of Spanish and Maya Indian peoples. In the Capital, the 'Creoles' (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority though there are a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and of Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States nationals. There is in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, a predominance of Caribs but Maya Indians have some large settlements in the extreme South.]

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles</i>	<i>Persons per Square Mile</i>
Belize . . .	27,225	1,623	16.77
Northern . . .	12,495	2,180	5.73
Stann Creek . . .	6,466	840	7.09
Toledo . . .	6,416	2,125	3.01
Cayo	7,477	1,830	4.08
Colony .	60,079	8,598	6.98

Population figures issued in the two years before the census do not provide useful comparison owing to some over-estimation, but, from a review of the 1939 estimates, it is clear that the official view of a trend to concentration in Belize is fully supported. The population of the Northern District, important agriculturally, has declined by almost twenty per cent, while that of other districts has slightly declined. The figures for Belize indicate an increase of one-fifth between 1939 and 1946, absorbing the reductions in the district and the small overall increase in the figures for the Colony.

Births per thousand of population have not shown appreciable change, being 32 in 1944, 33.2 in 1945 and 34.3 in 1946. Deaths, which were just over 18 per thousand in 1944 and 1945, declined to 16.9, which was probably due to a sharp decline in the infantile mortality rate from 14 per cent of the births in 1944 and 1945 to 10.5 in 1946. The infantile mortality rate, which in Belize is only just over 8 per cent, is exceedingly high in the Southern District of Toledo, with its large Maya population, which recorded rates of over 27 per cent in 1944 and 1945 but declined to just under 19 in 1946.

Chapter II: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

In British Honduras the employment available in the forest industries, the mainstay of the Colony's economy, is largely seasonal, timber extraction operations being principally confined to the first six months of the year when the dry weather permits logging over primitive roads, while chicle bleeding is carried out in the wet months, July to February, as rains induce a good flow of gum from the trees.

A statement of the particulars of the employment available in the principal occupations follows:

Occupation	Number employed	Wages or Earnings	Average hours worked weekly	Remarks
<i>Mahogany Industry</i> Labourers	1030	\$19.00 to \$21.00 per month	50	Rations free to value of \$2.50 a week
Vehicle Drivers	172	\$60.00 to \$75.00 per month	50	Rations free to value of \$3.50 a week
Other workers	148	\$30.00 a month	50	ditto
<i>Chicle Industry</i> Bleeders	1788	\$80.00 a month average	50	Piece workers at rates from 35c. to 55c. a lb.
<i>Secondary Timber Industry</i> Fellers and Labourers	183	\$1.40 a day	54	—
<i>Sawmills</i> Foremen, Machinery Operators and Attendants	120	\$1.50 to \$5.00 a day	48	—
Yard Labourers	225	\$1.20 to \$1.50 a day	48	—
<i>Agriculture</i> Labourers (cane field)	431	\$1.00 a day	54	—
Labourers (Citrus Orchards)	155	\$1.25 a day	54	—

Occupation	Number employed	Wages or Earnings	Average hours worked weekly	Remarks
<i>Public Works Dept.</i>				
Road Labourers	350	\$1.20 and \$1.38 a day	48	—
Lorry Drivers	60	\$2.30 a day	48	—
Carpenters	60	\$2.00 to \$3.50 a day	48	—
Other Tradesmen	60	\$2.00 to \$4.00 a day	48	—
<i>Retail Distributive Trades</i>				
Shop Assistants	388	\$2.00 to \$30.00 a week	45	—
<i>Factories—Sugar and Other</i>				
Labourers	306	\$3.00 to \$15.00 a week	48 to 72	—

Cost of Living

From a survey held by the Labour Department in 1942 embracing 100 working class families in Belize it was found that the average amounts paid out weekly under the main groups of household expenditure were as follows:

	\$
Food	7.00
Clothing	1.37
Rent	1.20
Fuel, Light and Washing	0.98
Other Items	2.30
	<hr/>
	12.95

Price levels at the time of the survey were 34.7 above pre-war conditions and as the index figure had risen to 197 by the end of 1946, the cost of maintaining unchanged the 1942 standards of living would then have been approximately \$18.94.

The trend of the cost of living in 1946 is shown by the index figures hereunder:

1st January	162
1st April	167
1st July	169
1st October	197

The sharp rise which took place during the quarter commencing on the 1st July was mainly due to the suspension in August of the system of the subsidization of certain essential articles of food.

No accurate records are available as to the cost of living for Europeans but the rates for hotels and boarding houses vary from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a day, and from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a month.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Size and Work of the Labour Department

The Labour Department was established in 1939 with duties following closely those of other colonies. The staff during 1946 consisted of the Labour Officer, one Second Class Clerk and an office messenger. Approval was granted for the appointment in 1947 of a Labour Inspector to assist the Labour Officer in carrying out inspections and other work of the department.

Trade Unions

There were three registered trade unions functioning during 1946. The following are their particulars with the reported membership of each as on the 31st December, 1946:

(a) The British Honduras General Workers Union, which came into existence in 1939, is a general union open to all groups of workers, male or female. Its membership was 617 of whom 267 were financial.

(b) The Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Painters Union, formed in 1944, is as its name implies confined to the classes of workers specified. There were 140 members on their roll, of whom 63 were financial.

(c) The British Honduras Labour Union, which was registered on the 8th August, 1945, is a union of labourers but its rules permit of the acceptance of other classes of workers providing there exists no other union in the Colony in which they could obtain membership. Its members totalled 63, of whom 53 were non-financial.

No associations of employers have yet been registered though preliminary arrangements were made during the latter portion of the year for the formation of an association embracing the employers in the timber, chicle bleeding and other forest industries.

Labour Disputes

The only strike during the year was that by twenty-two ship carpenters employed by a shipping company who ceased work on the 12th November when the employers refused, pending instructions from their headquarters abroad, to meet the demands from the British Honduras General Workers Union for increased pay. The dispute was settled on the 5th December when the employers agreed to meet the Union's claims. Work was resumed on the 9th December and 506 man days of employment were lost.

The Labour Department attended to a normal number of individual complaints between workers and their employers; in addition advice and direction were given to those who came inquiring as to their rights under the Employers and Workers Ordinance, the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance and other Labour legislation.

Labour Legislation

The relations between master and servant are controlled by the Employers and Workers Ordinance, No. 6 of 1943, which repealed and replaced previous legislation dating as far back as 1883.

A system of workmen's compensation for accidents sustained during the course of their employment was established in 1943. It follows closely the system in other West Indian colonies. Agricultural workers are included in its scope and insurance is available from various firms operating in the Colony.

The Factories Ordinance, No. 9 of 1942, provides for the maintenance of machinery safeguards and for the regulation of the conditions of employment in factories.

The establishment and registration of Trade Unions is governed by the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, whilst the settlement of trade disputes may be effected by arbitration under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939, when voluntary means fail.

Other ordinances in force govern the practices of recruiting, provide for the fixing of minimum wages, and regulate the employment of women, young persons and children.

There is no legislation to provide for old age pensions, or for relief in cases of sickness. The indigent receive outdoor relief from a charity vote which is administered by the Outdoor Relief Committee and the sick are given free treatment at Government Hospitals if they are found to be destitute.

Regulations affecting labour conditions introduced during the year 1946 were:

(a) The Supplies and Service Order, 1946 (S.R. & O. No. 10 of 1946), made by the Governor on the 21st February, 1946, renewed the power conferred under the Defence Regulations (which expired on the 24th February, 1946) to avoid strikes and lockouts in essential industries by the compulsory reference of trade disputes to arbitration for settlement.

(b) The Shops (Christmas Season Opening) Rules, 1946 (S.R. & O. No. 54 of 1946), extended during the period 15th December to 31st December, 1946, the closing hours of shops from 9 to 10 p.m. each evening, and the aggregate number of hours of employment of shop assistants from 9 hours to 10 hours daily.

Chapter III: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Throughout the war years, it was not found possible to meet Government Expenditure, which increased steadily, year by year, entirely from Revenue raised within the Colony, notwithstanding the considerable expansion which took place in Customs Duties and Income Tax. The resultant annual deficit was met by a grant-in-aid from His Majesty's Treasury.

1. Accounts for the Calendar Year 1946

As the accounts for 1946 were not quite complete, provisional figures have been given in two comparative tables of Revenue and Expenditure. The surplus brought forward from 1945 amounted to \$136,946, to which may be added \$29,265 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. True revenue for 1946 is shown at \$2,203,813, while true expenditure is given as \$2,192,763. A single transfer of an accumulated balance over two or three years, representing the sale of flour donated by the Canadian Government, was instrumental in effecting this pleasing equilibrium of revenue and expenditure in 1946. As a result of a payment on account of the estimated grant-in-aid by His Majesty's Exchequer early in the year, the surplus brought forward into 1947 amounts to \$257,861.

Revenue

The total true revenue of the Colony rose from \$1,674,989 in 1944 to \$2,203,813 in 1946, the figure for 1945 being \$1,924,171. Comparative figures for three years are shown below under the principal heads.

	1944 \$	1945 \$	1946 \$
Customs, including Surtaxes	751,643	884,007	920,440
Internal Taxation	383,120	479,070	579,180
Revenue of Government Property	88,074	98,202	106,509
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	104,153	108,432	232,552
Self-balancing Revenue (Posts & Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Power)	221,979	231,130	251,605
Interest and Sinking Fund of repayments	72,059	84,171	73,414
Miscellaneous	53,961	39,159	40,113
True Revenue	1,674,989	1,924,171	2,203,813

Receipts from Imperial Funds

Colonial Development & Welfare	662,296	412,459	352,399
Grant-in-aid	173,290	169,260	80,600
Total Revenue	2,510,575	2,505,890	2,636,812

The Internal Taxation increases were largely due to the growing yield from income tax, which in 1944 was \$132,777, in 1945 \$186,364, and in 1946 \$260,458.

Expenditure

The comparative figures shown below have been classified under main heads.

	1944 \$	1945 \$	1946 \$
Administration	835,057	946,884	985,555
Social Services (Education, Health, Prisons, etc.)	371,253	395,325	401,118
Subventions (including price stabilization)	136,635	131,923	194,501
Public Debt	189,388	166,784	164,558
Public Works Improvements	55,058	268,328	168,199
Self-balancing Expenditure (Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and Electric Power)	140,708	154,339	168,482
Expenditure on Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes	637,540	371,940	356,845
Production (Agriculture & Forestry)	98,147	94,181	110,350
	<hr/> 2,463,786	<hr/> 2,529,704	<hr/> 2,549,608

Administration includes expenditure on Justice, Police, Pensions, Defence and some minor branches of Government work. The large increase in the expenditure on this head between 1944 and 1946 is explained by the grant of Cost of Living Bonuses to supplement salaries.

2. Public Debt

The outstanding debt of the Colony at the 31st December, 1946, amounted to \$2,105,781, of which sum \$101,300 was in respect of borrowings made locally. Sinking funds in hand amounted to \$674,036, thus giving a figure of \$1,431,745 as the net outstanding debt. The total interest being paid on the loans outstanding represents a rate of 4.3 per centum per annum. Of the total amount owing, the sum of \$525,170 is outstanding to the Imperial Treasury, being the balance of loans made in 1932 for reconstruction and development work following the hurricane in 1931. Loan charges, which in 1946 amounted to \$164,558, representing 7.5 per cent of the total expenditure, constitute a not inconsiderable burden on the revenues of the Colony.

3. Assets and Liabilities

A provisional statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as at 31st December, 1946, shows Assets divisible as follows:

	\$
Cash	261,976
Investments of Various Funds	1,792,978
Advances to official and public organizations	210,228
	<hr/> 2,265,182

Liabilities may be classified briefly as shown below:

	\$
Unexpended balances of loans	3,342
Deposits—Fund balances, etc.	2,034,047
Drafts	5,185
Surplus	222,608
	<hr/>
	2,265,182.

In addition, the following information must be given to present a true account:

	\$
Public Debt of the Colony	2,105,781
Less accumulated Sinking Fund in hand	674,036
	<hr/>
	1,431,745
Loan Investments	665,817
	<hr/>

The sum of \$28,423 was also due to the Colony on account of expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.

4. Description of the Main Heads of Taxation

The main heads and their yield in revenue are set out below:

	1944 \$	1945 \$	*1946 \$
<i>Customs</i>			
Import Duties	627,036	745,676	766,845
Export Duties	70,571	75,360	90,670
Package Tax	41,231	51,491	50,936
Harbour Dues, etc.	12,805	11,480	11,995
<i>Internal Taxation, etc.</i>			
Excise Duties	164,969	195,363	220,031
Income Tax	132,777	186,364	260,458
Land Tax	38,152	37,476	40,242
Estate Duty	1,093	8,618	5,729
Licences, Banks & Fire Insurance			
Companies	1,257	1,411	1,376
Other Licences:			
Motor Vehicles, etc.	2,149	16,113	18,063
Fines of Court	9,712	11,783	11,763
Fees of Court and Stamp Duties	17,684	12,188	19,020
Warehouse Rents	21,255	34,768	32,547

Import Duties. The tariff of import duties is largely *ad valorem* with a general duty of 25 per centum and a preferential rate of 12½ per centum. Specific duties are levied on wines, certain defined spirits and tobacco

* Provisional figures for 1946.

and cigarettes. Equipment for agricultural and forestry operations is admitted free of duty.

Export Duties are levied upon chicle, coco-nuts and mahogany and cedar logs and lumber.

Package Tax. This is a tax of 15 cents on every package passing through the Customs Department.

Excise Duty is imposed on locally produced rum at the rate of \$4.50 per proof gallon if intended for consumption within the Colony. There is also a small duty on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Land Tax. A tax is levied on all lands at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents an acre.

Income Tax. Increased rates of tax were imposed during 1946 providing for a levy on the chargeable income of any person at the rate of 5 per centum of the first \$1,000 increasing by a sliding scale up to 40 per centum on that part of incomes in excess of \$35,000. A surtax on a sliding scale is also levied on chargeable income in excess of \$4,000 being 10 per centum on the first \$5,000, 15 per centum on the next \$6,000 and 20 per centum on the remainder. Company Tax is at the rate of 30 cents on every dollar of chargeable income of a Company.

Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies. Any establishment carrying on the business of banking pays an annual licence fee of \$500, and Fire Insurance Companies pay a licence fee at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum on gross premiums with a minimum fee of 25 dollars.

Estate Duty. Duty is chargeable on estates over \$100 based on a scale which is \$1.00 per centum on estates up to \$500 increasing to \$15.00 per centum on estates over \$50,000.

Licences—Motor Vehicles. An annual duty is payable on all motor vehicles varying according to the weight of the vehicle, its classification, and the purpose it serves.

Stamp Duties. The chief features are impositions of 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange with 10 cents for every \$100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every \$50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse Rents. A charge is made on merchandise which is deposited in bond, usually for re-export.

5. Customs Tariff

Broadly, the Customs Schedule of Duties may be described as a two-part *ad valorem* tariff on C.I.F. prices with specific duties on a few selected articles. Under the general tariff, the majority of the small and general importations subject to *ad valorem* duties bear a 25 per cent imposition; under the preferential tariff the duty is one of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

As a consequence of an Ordinance passed in 1939 to impose as a war-time measure a surtax on certain Customs duties, the duty on a number of articles, the chief of which were bicycles, clocks, watches, hosiery, wines and spirits, cigarettes and sugar, was increased by 25 per centum; the duty on a few other articles was increased on a specific basis.

Equipment, such as trucks, tractors, carts, wagons and agricultural implements, imported to aid in agriculture or in forestry operations, is admitted free. Machinery for agricultural purposes, sugar manufacturing, marine purposes, and printing, together with sewing machines, are free under the Preferential Tariff and bear only a five per cent impost under the General Tariff.

Specific duties, with some qualifications, are levied on importations of cattle, on certain manufactured articles such as bicycles, boots and shoes, fuel oils and petroleum, on the chief items of food and on wines, spirits and tobacco.

Some imports, the principal of which are clocks, jewellery, cutlery, plated goods and jams, etc., bear a thirty per cent levy on the General Tariff and fifteen per cent on the Preferential.

6. Excise

Excise Duties are confined to rum and tobacco, the rate on the former being \$4.50 per gallon if not exceeding the strength of proof and \$4.50 per proof gallon. The rates on tobacco, as increased by a war surtax, are now

(a) cigars, weighing not more than 5 lb. per 1,000	20 cents per 100
weighing over 5 lb. per 1,000	50 cents per 100
(b) cigarettes weighing not more than 3 lb. per 1,000	10 cents per 100
weighing over 3 lb. per 1,000	20 cents per 100
(c) manufactured	40 cents per lb.

Stamp Duties. The main features have been described elsewhere in this chapter. Some specific rates are given below:

	\$
Affidavits and Declarations	.50
Agreements: if not under seal	.10
if under seal	2.50
Bills of Exchange payable on demand or at sight or on presentation or within three days after date or sight	.03
Bill of Lading for export of goods	.10
Bonds: For every \$50 or part of \$50 of the amount of the penalty	.10
To a maximum	2.50
Deeds not charged with <i>ad valorem</i> duty	2.50
Leases, Tenancy Agreements for definite terms not exceeding a year:	
For a dwelling house rent less than \$96 p.a.	.02
In other cases: if not under seal	.10
if under seal	2.50
Passports	2.50
Renewal fee for each year	.25
Share Warrants to bearer by a Company Registered in the Colony \$50 or part of \$50 of nominal value	.75

7. Income Tax

Income Tax on individuals was payable at the following rates:

\$			
On the first 1,000 of Chargeable Income	5%		
„ next 500	6%		
„ „ 500	7%		
„ „ 1,000	8%		
„ „ 1,000	9%		
„ „ 1,000	10%		
„ „ 1,000	12½%		
„ „ 1,000	15%		
„ „ 1,000	17½%		
„ „ 1,000	20%		
„ „ 1,000	22½%		
„ „ 5,000	25%		
„ „ 20,000	30%		
On all amounts above \$35,000	40%		

The rates of Surtax on Individuals were

On the first \$5,000 in excess of \$4,000 of Chargeable Income 10%

On the next \$6,000 15%

On the remainder 20%

The tax on Companies was 30%.

Incidence of Income Tax
Tax Payable

Gross Income	Single Person	Married Man	Married man with one child	Married man with two children
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,000	20.00	7.50	1.25	—
1,500	42.50	30.00	23.75	17.50
2,000	68.00	53.00	46.25	40.00
3,000	131.00	111.50	102.75	94.00
4,000	204.00	183.00	173.00	163.00
5,000	285.00	262.50	251.25	240.00
6,000	485.00	435.00	410.00	385.00
7,000	710.00	653.75	625.62	597.00
8,000	960.00	897.50	866.25	835.00
9,000	1,235.00	1,166.25	1,131.87	1,097.00
10,000	1,535.00	1,460.00	1,422.50	1,385.00
15,000	3,510.00	3,410.00	3,360.00	3,310.00
20,000	5,910.00	5,785.00	5,722.50	5,660.00
35,000	13,410.00	13,285.00	13,222.50	13,160.00

Deductions allowed against gross income are:

Personal allowance	\$500
Wife	\$250
Each child	\$125
Earned Income 1/10 of gross income up to	\$500

8. Estate Duty

Under the provisions of an Ordinance in 1927, Estate Duty is payable according to a general scale as follows:

Where the principal value of the estate

Exceeds	\$		\$		\$	
	100 but does not exceed		500	Duty to be payable at	1.00	%
"	500	"	2,000	"	1.50	%
"	2,000	"	4,000	"	2.00	%
"	4,000	"	6,000	"	3.00	%
"	6,000	"	10,000	"	3.50	%
"	10,000	"	15,000	"	4.50	%
"	15,000	"	20,000	"	5.50	%
"	20,000	"	25,000	"	6.50	%
"	25,000	"	30,000	"	8.00	%
"	30,000	"	50,000	"	10.00	%
"	50,000	"	—	"	15.00	%

Chapter IV: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

Standard and Legal Tender

The standard of currency is the British Honduras dollar which is of the equivalent value of the dollar of the United States of America. Currency notes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5 and \$10 issued by the Currency Commissioners are legal tender up to any amount. Subsidiary silver currency is legal tender in payment of any amount not exceeding ten dollars but coins of bronze nickel or mixed metal in five cent or one cent pieces are legal tender up to fifty cents only.

Circulation

The note circulation of the Colony, which stood at \$283,536 at the 31st December, 1939, expanded to \$809,888 at the end of 1946. The figures for each denomination were as follows:

	Number of Notes	Amount \$
\$1	76,534	76,534
\$2	52,442	104,884
\$5	91,976	459,880
\$10	16,859	168,590
		<hr/> \$809,888

This figure represented an increase of \$22,115 over the quantity in circulation a year before. The reserve of notes, having decreased from \$315,000 at the commencement of the year to \$265,000 at the end of the year, is to be supplemented by the Commissioners with an order of notes of a more distinctive colouring.

Subsidiary Currency

Coins issued by the Colonial Government are as follows:

<i>Silver</i>		\$
50 cent pieces	.	95,080
25 " "	.	74,616
10 " "	.	26,537
5 " "	.	5,641
<i>Mixed metal (nickel, bronze, etc.)</i>		
5 cent pieces	.	17,519
1 " "	(bronze)	12,019
		————— \$231,412

Of this figure of \$231,412, \$50,000 in fifty cent and twenty-five cent pieces, being surplus to circulation requirements, is held at a specie value of \$15,000 as a security of the Note Security Fund. Making allowance for losses in circulation and reserves, the active circulation may be less than \$150,000.

BANKING

There is only one banking establishment in the Colony, that of the Royal Bank of Canada in Belize which was established in 1912 when the Bank of British Honduras was purchased. The Bank provides all the usual banking services.

The Government Savings Bank, operating from the Treasury in Belize, with a branch in the administrative centre of each district, increased its deposits from \$410,632 at the 1st January, 1939, to \$1,743,450 at the end of 1946. The increase in deposits during 1946, though less marked than in most of the war years, was \$136,427. Account holders numbered 7,018 with an average holding of \$248.

Chapter V: Commerce

EXPORTS

The Colony's chief Exports are mahogany logs, mahogany lumber, cedar logs, pine lumber, bananas, citrus and re-exports of manufactured articles. Comparison with the figures for 1945 reveal a small increase in the value of exports of \$300,096 to a figure of \$5,222,028. In 1946, there was an export of grapefruit juice valued at \$339,812; no export took place in the previous year. The export of chicle gums at \$1,403,810 represented an increase of \$459,628 over the 1945 figures. Against a decrease in the value of mahogany logs exported, amounting to \$1,587,612, there was a considerable increase in the mahogany lumber shipped from the Colony. The actual amount, \$1,204,409, was \$665,322 in excess of the previous year's value. The export of pine lumber increased from \$19,998 to \$172,216. The number of coco-nuts exported represented a considerable decline compared with the previous year and the revenue was down by \$63,973 to \$214,915.

IMPORTS

Imports showed a decline of \$1,054,260 compared with the previous year's figure of \$7,836,776, but this was principally due to the fact that few mahogany logs passed through the Colony from Guatemala. In the previous year, the value of such imported logs was \$1,881,937; in 1946 the figure was \$41,679. A total of 30,587 cwts. of rice were imported at a value of \$292,764; 24,019 cwts. in 1945 cost only \$196,009; the increase in price being almost \$1.50 per cwt. Similarly, 49,760 bags of flour (196 lb.) cost \$341,148 in 1945 but 39,724 bags cost \$406,673 in 1946. In the earlier year 45 motor cars or trucks were imported at a value of \$143,813, while in the year now reviewed the figures were 118 vehicles with a value of \$261,644. Cotton piece goods were up \$63,000, as compared with the previous year's figure of \$245,193 which purchased a much higher quantity of cloth. Chicle gums falling for re-export were valued at \$352,768, being an increase of \$100,000 over the previous year.

DEVELOPMENT

The only commercial development of significance during the year, was the establishment of an export trade with Miami, Florida, for fresh crawfish captured within the waters of the Colony. One motor vessel of a net registered tonnage of 59 tons, fitted with deep freeze refrigerating apparatus, is now engaged in this trade, which shows every indication of developing.

There is an apparent adverse balance of trade as the Imports are \$1,560,488 in excess of the Export figures as published. It is clear, however, that the prices returned by exporters of mahogany logs and lumber and other woods do not represent the full purchase price. Advances and remittances by United States Importers are considerable and it is known that there was, in fact, a favourable balance of trade of a substantial amount.

SAVINGS BANK, CO-OPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

There are no Co-operative or Friendly Societies and the only Savings Bank is operated by the Government. It has a main office in Belize and five branches; its deposits at the close of the year totalled \$1,743,450, distributed among 7,018 account holders.

Chapter VI: Production

AGRICULTURE

The Staff of the Department of Agriculture comprised a Director of Agriculture, two Assistant Agricultural Officers, two Agricultural Instructors, two Senior and eight Junior Farm Demonstrators.

The acreage devoted to the principal crops is given below together with an estimate of yields:

	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Yields</i>
Maize	13,000	1,000 lb. per acre
Rice	2,300	1,000 „ „
Beans	700	300 „ „
Root crops (cassava, yams, sweet potatoes)	2,300	—
Plantains and Bananas	3,000	—
Coco-nuts	3,700	3,000 nuts per acre
Citrus	1,500	100 boxes of 90 lb. each of grapefruit per acre
Sugar Cane	2,500	Cane: 15 tons per acre Sugar: 1-1½ tons per acre

Organization and Destination of Production

	<i>Producers</i>	<i>To be exported or retained in the Colony</i>	<i>Exports in 1946</i>
Maize	Individual agriculturalists, Maya Indians in Northern and Southern Districts	Local consumption	Nil
Sugar Cane	ditto	Local production of sugar and rum. Price in 1946 for sugar cane delivered at factories was \$5.50 a ton	Nil
Coco-nuts	A few large plantation owners and many small individual producers	With the exception of a small quantity used by a soap factory, main yield is for U.S. market	2,632,239 with a value of \$199,848
Citrus	Grapefruit orchards are in the hands of a few producers in Stann Creek Valley	Fruit sold to grapefruit canning factory for ultimate export	36,480 cwts. of grapefruit juice with a value of \$339,812
Rice	Mainly by small individualist producers in Belize and Southern Districts	For local consumption	Nil

		<i>To be exported or re- tained in the Colony</i>	<i>Exports in 1946</i>
<i>Producers</i>			
Root crops (cassava, yams, sweet potatoes)	Small individualist producers and farmers	For local consump- tion	Nil
Bananas	ditto	For export of best quality fruit. Poorer quality and rejects used in Colony	84,798 bunches exported with a value of \$48,984
Livestock	Small individualist producers and farmers with a few exceptions	For local meat and food markets	Nil

The area devoted to rice in 1946 was almost double that of the previous year. Over 400 acres were planted by the Agriculture Department in the Toledo District in the South of the Colony and normal returns were achieved. Difficulties with the Government production arose with equipment for threshing and milling and some losses resulted. Heavy rains hampered harvesting in the low-lying lands of the Belize District and yields were disappointing.

Coco-nut groves controlled by large plantation owners were well-maintained but yields are still affected by severe storms in 1941, 1942 and 1945. Coco-nuts obtained good prices early in the year of from \$45 to \$60 a thousand but fell at the close to \$20 and \$30 a thousand.

Banana growing is still affected by Panama Disease but peasants improved their cultural methods and turned their attention to a new variety resistant to disease and to high winds.

Increasing interest is being taken in Citrus growing and the 1946-47 crop of grapefruit in Stann Creek Valley is estimated at 150,000 boxes as against 110,000 in the 1945-46 season. The Northern District crops suffered from a very dry period early in 1946 and the quality of the fruit was not quite standard. Sugar cane production in the Northern District suffered similarly and the 8,962 tons of cane milled in the Sugar Factory was less than in former years. Sugar obtained from this production was 808 tons.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Livestock in the Colony is returned as follows:

Cattle	10,130
Pigs	9,550
Horses and Mules	3,690
Poultry	44,110
Goats and Sheep	360

In consequence of a less intense dry season and the fact that pastures remained green throughout the year, cattle were, on the whole, in good

condition in 1946. Larger cattle owners are devoting more attention to the growing of fodder grass for their animals. The pig population increases slowly and the demand for a fat-producing type of hog to supply 'hog lard' continues.

FISHERIES

There is no Fisheries Department. Fishing in the Colony engages about 125 fishing doreys and smacks of a length varying from fifteen feet to thirty-five feet and averaging from half a ton to ten tons each, with an aggregate of 150 tons.

FORESTRY

The principal forest products are:

- (a) Mahogany logs and lumber
- (b) Cedar logs and lumber
- (c) Pine lumber
- (d) Secondary hardwood logs and lumber
- (e) Rosewood sold by the ton
- (f) Chicle and Crown gum
- (g) Cohune kernels
- (h) Firewood and charcoal
- (i) Alligator skins

The total area of forest lands in the Colony is 8,337 square miles or 93.9 per cent of the total area. It consists of the following types:

I	Mangrove forests			approximately 2.8%
II	Savannahs			
	(a) Brackish water	} Wet Savannahs	,,	2.7%
	(b) Fresh water			
	(c) Inland	Pine forest		
III	Pine forest	Dry Savannahs	,,	15.4%
IV	High rain forest			
	1. Swamp forest		,,	2.3%
	2. Intermediate forest		,,	17.9%
	3. Mountain forest			
	4. Advanced forest	} Advanced forest	,,	51.9%
V	Secondary rain forest			
	(i) High forest			
	(ii) Existing and recently abandoned cultivation		,,	7.0%
Total land area of mainland				100.0%

Mahogany logs may be cut from overmature trees in virgin forests far inland or from smaller trees which have reached the required size in cut over forests nearer the coast. They are hauled by caterpillar tractor to a

main road where they are loaded on pneumatic-tyred tractors with long trailers capable of taking three or four whole trees containing 5,000 board feet at once. These transport them to a floatable river or the coast, after which they are floated to the sawmills of Belize or the ship's side if for export. Pine is seldom exported as a log. It is cut in the forest by smaller mills and the lumber is sent in lighters to the boat or market. There is a considerable local market for pine, both rough and dressed, as almost all houses are of wood.

Chicle is the base of chewing gum. Crown gum is another product obtained by tapping trees of the family Sapotaceae. It is mixed with chicle to produce chewing gum of a somewhat inferior type. They are both produced in the rains by chicleros and transported, after coagulation into blocks, on mule-back to the main rivers or the coast. Chicleros are individual contractors who produce from 500 to 2,000 lb. of chicle a season. They are licensed individually but agree to sell all their output at a stated price to a chicle contractor who has obtained permission to work the forest and who is responsible for the royalties. In 1946, 513 tons valued at \$1,014,161 were exported.

Most of the mahogany logs which were exported from Belize in 1946 came from the Peten Province of Guatemala where large areas of virgin forest still remain. The amount of this transit trade was less in 1946 than in 1945 because of the dislocation which occurred when the U.S.A. government ceased buying and left the trade to private firms.

Increased interest was shown in some of the lesser-known secondary hardwoods in 1946; nearly a thousand windblown trees of fourteen species were cut from the hurricane-damaged forest of Toledo District. Difficulty was experienced in handling some of the sinkers and it is unlikely that export of such logs will be successful in the future without special equipment. Local sawmills, which cut pine as well, are more likely to permit the marketing of these timbers.

Chapter VII: Social Services

EDUCATION

The system of primary education is that of subsidized denominational schools and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). The Governor is President of the Board, while the Director of Education acts as Secretary. A representative of the teachers is included among its members.

There are seventy-eight primary schools, three of which are conducted by the Government. There are also some thirty-three unaided primary schools, both denominational and private. All primary schools are co-educational, with the exception of four in Belize. The ages of enrolment for the purposes of grants-in-aid are five to sixteen.

The school buildings in the Northern and in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts suffered greatly by hurricane in October, 1942, and October, 1945, respectively. Twenty-eight buildings were destroyed or damaged in the Northern District and fourteen in the Toledo and Stann

Creek Districts. Thus far thirteen buildings have been rebuilt with assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. These buildings, which are mostly of stone or concrete, are in many respects ideal rural school buildings.

Secondary education is entirely in the hands of the denominations, but the Government assists by providing sixty-five scholarships for pupils from primary schools, each scholarship being tenable for four years though it may be extended for a fifth year with the approval of the Board of Education. There are five secondary schools, three of which are for boys. All except one have preparatory departments. Teachers are mostly recruited from abroad. The age-range of pupils receiving secondary education proper is eleven to eighteen. The schools are all situated in Belize.

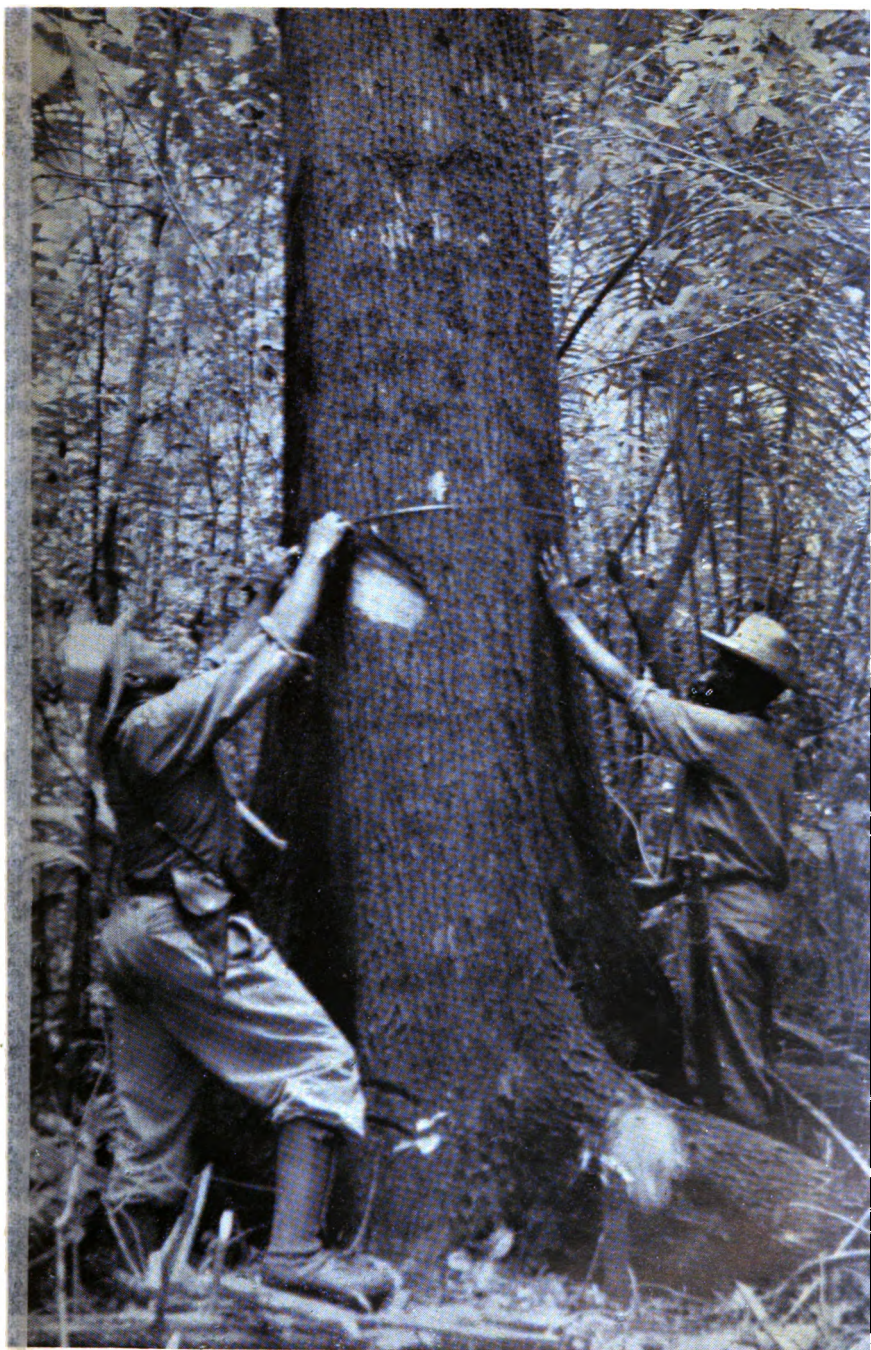
There is no vocational school, but handicrafts are taught at two schools in Belize, and instruction in domestic science is given to a limited number of girls from the higher standards at one centre in Belize. The teaching of agriculture is encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers, and by free grants of tools. There is in Stann Creek an industrial school for male juvenile delinquents, conducted by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Government. There is no similar institution for girls.

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen. That the enforcement of compulsion has been a success may be inferred from the fact that the percentage of the average attendance to the enrolment in the Colony is eighty, the highest in the British Caribbean area. Education is not yet free, however, each primary school pupil being expected to pay a fee of 5 cents (3d.) weekly.

An average of 200 certificated teachers and fifty pupil teachers is employed in the primary schools. The majority of the teachers are untrained, but since 1941 selected teachers have been sent to training colleges in Jamaica, there being twelve such teachers training annually. Ten have thus far completed their training and have been posted to schools. The system of Jeanes Supervision, initiated in 1937 by means of a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, was continued by the Government when the grant was exhausted in 1940. The supervisors have rendered invaluable service in raising the standard of teaching in the schools.

The position of the teachers has been improved by the approval in 1946 of the granting of assistance towards housing. Proposals have now been made for the improvement of salaries. The British Honduras Teachers' Federation, which was organized in 1939 with constituent associations in all the districts, holds an annual conference and makes recommendations to the Board of Education from time to time.

A revised primary school curriculum was issued in 1945. In its preparation the recommendation of the West India Royal Commission that curricula should be less bookish and more in keeping with the everyday life of the people, was borne in mind. The Board of Education Rules, which are the code of primary education, were revised in 1946; the revision of the Education Ordinance is under consideration.



MEASURING A MAHOGANY IN SIBUM FOREST PRIOR TO FELLING



A GRADER AT WORK IN MAHOGANY FOREST



CROWN GUM INDUSTRY, A CHICLERO TAPPING A CHIQUIBAL TREE



CROWN GUM BEING STRETCHED FOR TWENTY MINUTES
BETWEEN POSTS TO HARDEN



FIRE PROTECTION IN COASTAL PINE FORESTS

The system of secondary education is the subject of enquiry by a Commission appointed by the Governor. The standard of secondary education, which has been steadily improving, has been further raised by the institution in 1944 of a scholarship to a University in the British Commonwealth, to be awarded every two years on the results of the Higher School Certificate examination. This scholarship was awarded for the first time in 1946. A scholarship in veterinary science, given by Mr. Albert Gliksten of the Belize Estate and Produce Company Ltd., was awarded in 1944. The Colony will thus soon have a veterinary surgeon of its own.

The British Council supplies periodicals to certain schools, primary and secondary. It has also donated books to the Jubilee Library, Belize, to form the nucleus of a Teachers' Reference Library. British Council scholarships in Educational Method were awarded in 1945 and 1946 to a supervisor and two primary school teachers.

Education has benefited from Colonial Development and Welfare schemes under which grants have been approved for the free supply of text-books, stationery and equipment to schools, towards the rehabilitation of some twenty-eight school buildings damaged or destroyed by hurricane in 1942 and towards the holding of annual teachers' vacation courses during the past three years. Two medical scholarships were awarded in 1944 and 1946 respectively. A grant was also made in 1946 towards the training of a Supervisor at the University of London Institute of Education.

The most successful venture in adult education has been the Credit Union Movement which was introduced in 1943. There are now several credit unions, the largest being that conducted by the Roman Catholic Mission in Belize which has a membership of 211 with assets of over \$10,000 (£2,500). The pioneer credit union in the Colony, the St. Peter Claver Credit Union at Punta Gorda, proved its worth particularly after the hurricane which struck the town in October, 1945. The example set by this union inspired the formation of another non-denominational union called the St. George's Credit Union, which, under the able management of a Roman Catholic priest, undertook the rehabilitation of a large number of wrecked homes. The Government, from funds raised by public subscription, and from the Official Charities Fund, readily provided a loan of \$5,000 for this purpose. Thrift clubs run, as far as possible, on credit union lines ('credit unionettes' as they are called) have now been organized in some schools. Both in the adult and juvenile movements, emphasis is laid not only on the need for regular saving but on the education of members through the study of the principles of co-operation.

The average enrolment of the recognized primary schools has risen from 9,773 in 1939 to 10,196 in 1946, while the average attendance has risen from 7,773 to 8,313. The average enrolment in the secondary schools is about 600.

The total provision from the revenue of the Colony, excluding War Bonus, was \$93,349 (£19,208) in 1939 and \$135,587 (£33,644) in 1946.

The actual expenditure by the Education Department during 1946 was approximately \$128, 800 (£31, 961).

HEALTH

An analysis of the mortality rate of persons for whom a death certificate signed by a doctor was given during 1945 is submitted below:

<i>Infective and Parasitic Diseases:</i>	<i>Percentage of total deaths</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	3.5
Tuberculosis	7.5
Dysentery	4.0
Malaria	10.0
Other Infective or parasitic diseases	2.0
	<hr/>
Cancer and other tumours	27.0
Rheumatism, diseases of Nutrition and other General Diseases	5.0
Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs	1.5
Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	2.0
Diseases of the Circulatory System	8.0
Diseases of the Respiratory System	8.0
Diseases of the Digestive System	11.5
Diseases of the Urinary and Genital (not Venereal or connected with Pregnancy)	15.0
Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Puerperal Fever	4.0
Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	1.0
Senility, Old Age.	9.0
	8.0
	<hr/>
	100.0

No classification of the incidence of various diseases in certain occupations has been attempted and it is doubtful whether any information of value would be obtained in view of the scattered nature of employment in the Colony.

Malaria

This disease keeps its priority as the most formidable of all causes of death and illness. There has not yet been time to organize the effective use of the new synthetic insecticides nor have the new synthetic prophylactic drugs been procurable in the open market. Both these instruments of new malariology were tried out, however, at the Gallon Jug Mahogany Camp. Dr. A. J. Walker of the Tulane University School of medicine was invited by the Belize Estate and Produce Company to advise them on the malarial sanitation of this camp, which houses mahogany labourers and their families—amounting to nearly 800 people. Dr. Walker visited the camp in June and examined the bloods of 568 people, who were ostensibly well, and found forty-two specimens positive for the malarial parasite.

The rate of infection in men was three per cent and in women and children ten per cent. Dr. Walker organized the spraying of labourers'

houses with a D.D.T. emulsion and at the same time began the prophylactic administration of chloroquine to labourers 'at risk' living in temporary camps away from their homes in Gallon Jug. The success of both these measures in reducing malaria in the camp was unqualified.

In the Belize Hospital Laboratory, 2,175 blood smears were examined for malaria parasites and 263 were positive; of this figure 214 were diagnosed as falciparum, 47 vivax and 2 malaria.

Typhoid Fever

All five districts of the Colony reported cases of typhoid fever and in one-fifth of the cases death resulted.

Tuberculosis

Of the cases of tuberculosis notified in 1946, over half proved fatal. Concern felt by the Senior Medical Officer is expressed in these words: 'It is true that the anti-biotic or synthetic in the treatment of tuberculosis does not yet exist, but the promise of their advent is certainly brighter than the hope of social prophylaxis in the shape of good housing and good nutrition.'

Venereal Disease

Blood tests in the Hospital Laboratory showed that of 2,926 bloods examined by Kahn and Hinton Reaction for Syphilis, 741 were positive and it is believed that the incidence of the disease is spread over six per cent of the population. The Venereal Diseases clinic suffered the inevitable decline in the absence of a responsible Medical Officer and it was not until the last few months of the year, with the return of the Medical Officer, that systematic diagnosis and treatment could be started.

Medical Staff

The staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer, eight Medical Officers, a Matron and a Nursing Sister. The Dispenser has two assistants and three apprentices, while there are two laboratory technicians. Besides thirteen staff nurses, there are sixty-nine nurses, an Inspector of Midwives, eight rural nurses and a District Nurse, together with twenty-one attendants. There are also eleven Sanitary Inspectors.

Hospitals

There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each district, with a total of 162 beds, twenty-two of which are in the maternity wards. The fees range from 25 cents a day for fourth-class patients to \$3.00 a day for the first-class, but no charge is made for the poor and indigent. Admissions to the Belize Hospital during 1946 numbered 2,654, and to District Hospitals 2,071, deaths being 189. The Outpatients Department of Belize Hospital recorded 35,870 attendances including those who attended as ambulatory cases of illness, and also the various clinics including the Dental Clinic, casualty dressing and minor operations.

The Maternity Ward, Belize Hospital, had 512 mothers with 440 deliveries, of which 33 were premature and 13 stillborn. There were four deaths.

Tests for syphilitic infection demonstrated a rate of 6.5 per cent amongst a wide cross-section of the community. Of greater significance, perhaps, was the fact that fully one of every four pregnant women had an anaemia ranging from 25 per cent to 70 per cent (10 grams) of haemoglobin. The deaths all took place in this group.

Rural Nurses

The training of Rural Nurses, begun in 1944, continues and the earlier trainees have been posted for service in the outlying villages. The Social Welfare Officer on the staff of the Comptroller for Development and Welfare visited all the nurses during the year and expressed admiration for the work they had accomplished.

Drainage Work

No drainage schemes or works were begun during the year but some thought was given to a proposal to employ a sanitary engineer for a limited period of one or two years in order that more skilled direction of drainage projects could be obtained. Finally, a token sum for this purpose was voted in the Annual Estimates for 1947.

Water Supply

A consulting engineer of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation accepted an invitation to visit the Colony during the later months of 1946 and he made visits to each district to examine the problem of rural water supply. A further visit is promised.

Sanitary Organization

Sanitary Inspectors are in charge of the scavenging of the City; they are responsible for the inspection of all receptacles for the collection of water and for the rigid enforcement of the by-laws governing bakeries, restaurants, hotels and slaughter houses. Each year for the past four years, a Sanitary Inspector has been sent to the Hygiene Institute, Kingston, Jamaica, for training.

The sea and the canals which run through the town of Belize provide the only means for a majority of the householders to dispose of their night soil. Disagreeable and unsightly as it may seem, there can be little doubt that it is the best expedient which could be adopted. Methods of disposal of night soil in the country villages are faulty.

HOUSING

In Belize, the population live in houses constructed of timber with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often swampy and flooded. The work of filling in plots with pipeshank from the sea bed is constantly being undertaken by private individuals and the City Council, while reclamation schemes have, from time to time, been undertaken by the Government. It is not usual to find any ground-floor rooms used for sleeping; their use is normally confined to storage, washing, or for kitchen purposes. Only a small number of the population live in houses which they own.

Before 1928, house-building was quite unregulated without regard to planning, and collections of small tenement houses were constructed without any order, at the rear of better-built structures facing the street. New constructions must comply with building regulations introduced in 1928.

A Housing and Town Planning Committee was appointed in the year 1944 to consider, in part, the housing situation in the Colony and to recommend steps for its betterment. The Committee had the invaluable aid and guidance of Mr. R. Gardner Medwin, Town Planning Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies. The Committee finally embodied their recommendations in three bills and a tentative plan for reshaping the City of Belize. The passing of the bills would involve the creation of a Housing and Town Planning Authority, whose duty it would be to direct the activities implied in its name. As part of its activities, the Committee, with the aid of a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, constructed two small groups of experimental houses, which were completed in 1946 but could not be used for lack of an adequate water supply.

In his annual report for 1943 the Senior Medical Officer wrote that the housing situation in Belize remained a dire problem. In 1946, he writes that it has reached critical proportions and all classes of houses are needed. With the severe congestion, in some parts, of houses in a dilapidated and derelict condition, there is an acute slum clearance problem; in consequence, slum clearance has been given a high 'priority' in the projects to be carried out from the Colonial Development and Welfare allocation.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Before 1944 Social Welfare was not controlled by a Government Department. However, with the secondment of an Officer from British Guiana in the latter part of 1944 a Department was created and funds for its administration provided by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare for a period of five years.

A survey of conditions in the Colony from a Social Welfare point of view was carried out by the Welfare Officer soon after his arrival in the Colony. Schemes were submitted to the Government for the introduction of four H Clubs and the development of fibrecraft and handicrafts as a cottage industry throughout the Colony. Fibrecraft and handicrafts have been successfully introduced into the Prison, Mental Hospital, Poor House, Gann House, and the Pomona Industrial School.

A Farmers' Federation run on co-operative lines has been formed at Santana. The Department also organized relief services in the Belize and Toledo Districts during the hurricanes and floods of 1945. Plans were drawn up for the reorganization of the Pomona Industrial School. The Social Welfare Officer also served as Chairman of the Outdoor Relief Committee until his return to British Guiana in March, 1946.

(a) Little progress has been made towards the promotion of community life except among the farmers at Santana. They have commenced the erection of a building, which it is hoped will, in time, be used as a community centre for the area.

Credit Unions are also contributing in no small measure towards solving the credit needs of large sections of the community.

(b) Relief to the aged and destitute is given through the Outdoor Relief Committee by means of weekly allowances, provided from Government Funds.

During the year under review, some 852 persons, 605 of whom were resident in Belize, received relief, amounting to \$30,317. The almshouse accommodated an average of 49 persons during the year, while Gann House, operated by the Salvation Army with the aid of a Government grant, provided night shelter for aged and homeless males. Lodging for the night is free but a small charge of two cents is made for a light meal in the morning. Nearly 6,000 persons presented themselves for night shelter during the year.

Destitute persons, without care, are admitted to the Poor House and there, as at Gann House, may earn a few cents from mat-making.

(c) The delinquency services comprise a Probation Officer (Salvation Army) for the town of Belize, the Pomona Industrial School for Boys, and probation officers in the districts and the prisons.

Juvenile delinquency is on the increase in the Colony. During the year under review 157 cases were brought before the courts. The offences ranged from disorderly conduct to stealing, wounding and gambling. Of the number of juvenile offenders only ten per cent were females. There is no Juvenile Court as such, but Magistrates' Courts are cleared when there are cases against juveniles, who must be accompanied by their parents, with the probation officer in attendance.

The probation system is used throughout the Colony and is applicable to both juveniles and adults. The probation officer not only attends court, but visits the homes and endeavours to find employment for those placed on probation.

The Pomona Industrial School for boys is the only institution for juveniles: it is managed by the Salvation Army on behalf of Government. Boys of ages, varying from ten to eighteen, are sent to the school, which accommodated an average of 58 boys during the year. The usual trades and handicraft are taught. If the boys are released from the institution before they are eighteen they may be placed on one year's probation.

Police Boys' Club

Alarmed at the prevalence of juvenile delinquency in the Colony, the Superintendent of Police organized a Police Boys' Club to mitigate the effect of a lack of home life or influence on children between the ages of nine and sixteen. With the avowed object of bettering the lot of young boys convicted in the Courts, the Club began with some twenty-five boys, holding meetings in the Belize Police Station, where lectures and practical demonstrations were given; food and clothing were also provided. Football and cricket games were organized and finally membership grew to seventy-five boys.

Chapter VIII: Legislation

Quarantine

This legislation was enacted as a result of the recommendation (made by the British West Indian Quarantine Conference held in Trinidad in November, 1943), for the adoption of uniform quarantine legislation in the British West Indies. The Ordinance and Regulations are based on the draft at Appendix 4 to the Report of the Conference.

Income Tax

The rates of income tax were increased (as shown in Chapter III) and a surtax was imposed on all chargeable incomes over four thousand dollars. Other amendments were also made with a view to facilitating the enforcement of the income tax law.

Provident Fund

Ordinance No. 5 of 1946 establishes a Provident Fund for certain employees of the Belize City Council. The compulsory deposit of one-twentieth of the monthly salary is deducted from salaries each month and a bonus, equal to such deposit, is paid out of the revenues of the City Council into the Fund to the credit of the depositor. Voluntary deposits may not exceed five hundred dollars in any one year. There is provision under which an employee may elect to become a depositor though not required by the Ordinance to contribute to the Fund.

Emergency Legislation

Regulations for the control of industry (including power to regulate prices), and the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1940, are the most important provision of emergency legislation continued in force by Statutory Rules and Orders made by the Governor under the authority of the Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Act, 1945, and Emergency Laws (Transitional Provisions) Act, 1946, which were extended to the Colony by Order of His Majesty in Council.

Chapter IX: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament 'in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law' passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed 'District Courts') are established in each of the five magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who is *ex-officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding \$100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a Magistrate, District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of Magistrates and District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The number of civil suits issued in the District Court (Civil Jurisdiction) was 350 and, in addition, there were 21 claims for compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1942. A total of \$13,709.78 was awarded to the dependants of the deceased workmen in 19 of the claims and a total sum of \$141.92 was awarded in the remaining 2 claims for partial incapacity.

The total number of criminal and quasi-criminal cases dealt with in the Summary Courts was 1,538 in Belize and 1,317 in the out-districts, classified as follows:

	<i>Belize</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Homicide	3	4
Offences against the person	88	89
Offences against property	205	54
Malicious injury to Property	—	16
Praedial larceny	4	15
Other crimes	9	38
Offences under Labour Laws	18	29
Offences against Laws relating to Revenue, Municipal Road and Social Economy	274	320
Petty offences	937	752
	<hr/> 1,538	<hr/> 1,317

POLICE

Composition

During the year 1946 the British Honduras Police Force consisted of one Superintendent, three Assistant Superintendents and 194 Other Ranks, divided as follows: Regular Police—3 Officers and 154 Other Ranks; Immigration Police—1 Officer and 31 Other Ranks; Marine Police—2 Launchmen and 7 Other Ranks. Of the 198 members of the British Honduras Police Force, 162 were born in British Honduras. The Force is distributed throughout the Colony, at Belize, five District Head Stations and twenty Sub-Stations, most of the latter having only one man in each. Police buildings, generally, are old and antiquated and their gradual replacement has been planned. In many districts the Police,

besides their normal duties, operate the local telephone system and post office and carry out the duties of School Officers. On account of the scattered position of police stations, a great deal of patrol work is done by single men on foot, horseback, and by dorey. The Force has twenty-three horses and one mule and most of the stations have either a paddling or sailing dorey attached to them.

Prevention and Suppression of Crime

The Force feels the lack of a proper training depot for its recruits and lectures and parades are regularly taken by the Officers and N.C.Os. of the Force. Recently, two Detective N.C.Os. were given a course in fingerprinting and police photography in Jamaica, and since their return they have been giving lectures to the other men on these subjects. The Force has a prisoners van, a police motor car, and two police motor cycles but, as the roads of the Colony are not extensive, motor patrols are limited and are largely used for traffic control. The Force has two sea-going motor launches, one of which is also used for river work. These are exceedingly useful in the prevention and suppression of crime. Mounted patrols in the districts, many of which remain out from their stations for a week or ten days at a time, have an excellent effect and are particularly useful along our northern border with Mexico. Mobile (bicycle) patrols and ambush patrols near to stores and shops have been utilized with great effect, both in the larger towns and in the villages.

Prevalence of Crime

During the year under review, there were two cases of *Murder*, two of *Attempted Murder*, and four of *Manslaughter*. This shows a slight increase over the last few years. There were 129 cases of *Criminal Harm* as compared with 102 in 1944 and 126 in 1945. The spreading use of the drug *Indian Hemp* or *Ganja* is considered by the Police to be the cause of these increases and eight convictions for persons found in possession of this drug were obtained during the year. *Praedial Larceny*, with 19 cases, showed a very slight increase and *Stealing* with 198 cases, involving 225 persons, shows an increase of 12 cases over 1945; the increase being largely due to the increased prevalence of gambling in the Colony. For breaches of the *Gambling Law* (mostly illegal lotteries) 76 cases were made as compared with 133 in 1945. The Police are experiencing increasing difficulty in obtaining agents to keep them informed of these lotteries and the decrease in cases made does not indicate any lessening in the offences. *Housebreaking* and *Burglary* with 17 and 13 cases, respectively, show no appreciable increase over previous years and *Traffic Offences* dropped from 205 in 1945 to 180 in the current year. Breaches of the *Defence Regulations* rose from 101 in 1945 to 157 in 1946, largely due to increased Immigration Police activities. *Minor Offences* numbering 705 show an appreciable drop from the figure 825 of 1945.

PRISONS

The authorized staff of the Prison Department comprises a Superintendent, a Clerk and Storekeeper, a Senior Warder, a Matron and sixteen warders.

Of the six prisons in the Colony, Belize is the principal, and is used to accommodate all prisoners sentenced for periods over three months. It consists of seventy-eight cells with a female wing of six cells; prisons in the out-districts are situated in the towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo, Stann Creek and Punta Gorda, and are staffed by the Police personnel; the senior non-commissioned officer being Keeper of the Prison. District prisons are under the control of the District Commissioner, subject to the supervision of the Superintendent of Prisons.

The figure of 336 persons received into the prisons represented an increase of sixty over the previous year.

Although there is insufficient accommodation to secure separation of juvenile offenders, they are kept apart from older offenders: boys under sixteen, who commit offences, are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. A Probation Officer has been appointed under the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1934, and the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932.

At the main Prison, the trades of carpentry, tailoring, mattress making, baking, shoemaking, bookbinding, tinsmithing and fibre-craft weaving, are taught.

The daily average number of prisoners set to work was sixty-three and their hours of work averaged eight. Certain gangs of men are employed outside the Prison, cutting grass and growth around Government Buildings and on other Government property.

Female prisoners are employed on fibre-beating, washing and mending prisoners' clothes and the production of coco-nut oil.

Chapter X: Public Utilities

Public utilities in the Colony are confined to the provision of electricity and telephones. The chief electric power station is operated by the Government in Belize but the small Town Board of Corozal provides electric lighting for its own inhabitants.

The electrical supply system in Belize is three wire direct current, 220 and 110 volts, using overhead lines on poles provided from local pine. Current is supplied by three direct-connected, Diesel-driven generating sets of British manufacture, using rotary balances for the mid-wire. Fuel oil costs twenty-three cents and lubricating oil eighty cents for each imperial gallon; the total cost of oil in 1946 was \$32,957.

Charges for electric current are:

(a) for lighting:

first 50 kw. 20 cents per kw.
over 50 kw. 15 cents per kw.

(b) for domestic power:

8 cents per kw.

(c) for industrial power:

3 cents to 7 cents per kw.

Consumers number over 2,500.

Ice is manufactured by the Electrical Department by a five-ton plant of British make and to supply the demand for ice it has been necessary also to operate hired plant of smaller capacity for the past few years. Approximate sales of ice during 1946 were 3,600,000 lb. at a rate of half a cent per lb.

TELEPHONES

The telephones are of the magneto type of American manufacture. Overhead cables use the poles provided for the electric wires; the airport, which is ten miles from Belize, is connected by means of a metallic circuit. In Belize there are three 150-line manual switchboards but the towns in the districts have smaller equipment. The trunk lines are copperweld single conductors using ground return. They are:

Belize-Maskall, Orange Walk, Corozal, Consejo	109 miles
Belize-Roaring Creek, Cayo, Benque Viejo	95 "
Belize-Stann Creek, Sitté, Monkey River	90 "
Belize-Hill Bank (Belize Estate & Produce Co. Ltd.)	45 "

There are 400 telephones connected to the Belize Exchange and 114 telephones on the trunk lines.

Charges for telephones are:

Business	desk	\$12.00 each quarter
	wall	\$11.50 " "
Private	desk	\$ 7.00 " "
	wall	\$ 6.50 " "
Out-district telephones		\$ 7.50 " "

Charges are:

- (a) for inland telegrams: two cents a word with a minimum charge of thirty cents.
- (b) for trunk calls: forty cents for each five minute period.

Chapter XI: Communications

Up to a decade ago, almost the only means of communication in the Colony were the sea, the rivers and a number of bush trails. It is inevitable that these means will continue to play an important part in the life of the Colony; they must be used for the transportation of supplies to the settlements on the banks of the rivers, for no road scheme could contemplate linking up all the scattered communities.

RIVERS

The Belize River, which has always been the most important for logging purposes, is navigable, almost to the frontier with Guatemala, by doreys and other light craft for the greater part of the year, but, at all times, considerable ingenuity must be exercised to negotiate the numerous 'runs'. Specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, with a 'tunnel' protection for the propeller, have for 20 to 30 years plied up and

down the 120 miles of river between Belize and the town of Cayo with mail and supplies, through all but the driest months.

THE SEA

Coastal villages in Southern districts are served by a twice-weekly sailing from Belize of a small motor vessel, which, once a week also, connects with the port of Puerto Barrios in Guatemala to deliver and collect much of the surface foreign mails of the Colony. Regular services are similarly maintained to the Northern District settlements. Ships of the United Fruit Company transport provisions and merchandise every two or three weeks from New Orleans, but the passenger service which operated before the war has not, as yet, been resumed. Small schooners provide a regular weekly service between Belize and the Florida port of Tampa. A few ships from the United Kingdom called during the year, after a wartime absence, and there were frequent, but irregular, sailings between Jamaica and the Colony. The ships entering the Colony in 1946 numbered 1,071 with a tonnage of 138,202 compared with 1,043 ships in 1945 with a tonnage of 98,651.

ROADS

Road-making is a difficult and costly process in most areas; in coastal districts swamps are the chief obstacle; inland, dense undergrowth is a difficulty. Until roads reach the hills of the interior, where quarries can be opened, stone is not easily obtained.

Prior to 1935, there were only thirty-five miles of 'all weather' roads in the Colony which were considered at that date to be suitable for motor traffic. Today, there are some 210 miles of main roads (including 52½ miles of the Belize to Cayo Road, which is at present under construction) and thirty-two miles of feeder road, all suitable for motor traffic. In addition there are approximately ninety-two miles of earth roads, some of which can be used by motor cars during the dry season, and 249 miles of bush trails.

Colonial Development and Welfare projects in hand during the year included the construction of the Belize-Cayo Road, and a new bridge over the Belize River known as the Haulover Bridge.

The Belize-Cayo Road was extended by three and a half miles, and seven miles of previously gravelled surface were metalled and asphalted.

Only some twelve miles remain to complete the link between these towns, which are eighty-one miles apart. Three new concrete and steel bridges were constructed between Roaring Creek and Cayo, and plans have been prepared for the 500-foot-long suspension bridge over the main river at Cayo.

The Haulover Bridge, five miles from Belize, is situated on the only motorable road out of the town. It will replace an existing lightly built concrete structure, which was badly damaged three years ago during a flood. The new structure, in addition to concrete approaches, will consist of two steel spans of 100 feet each, and one of 150 feet in the centre. The shore piers and one of the river piers have been completed, and the first 100-foot span assembled ready for floating into position. Construction of the remaining river pier has also been commenced.

The road from Corozal to Santa Elena on the Mexican Border at the Rio Hondo, a distance of $8\frac{1}{4}$ miles, was completed; extensive repairs to the road through the four miles of mangrove swamp between Belize and the Haulover Bridge were carried out.

Cars in the Colony numbered 142, commercial vehicles 244, and bicycles 2,200.

AIR SERVICES

The airport for the Colony was constructed some ten miles to the west of Belize in 1943 and 1944, and the cost was met from a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant. The airfield is officially named 'Stanley Field' to mark the association of Colonel Oliver Stanley, who as Secretary of State for the Colonies 'opened' the Terminal Building in January, 1945. There are two other airfields, neither of which is in regular use, as internal air services have been temporarily discontinued by the principal operating company in the Colony.

Planes of the Central American Airline Company 'Taca' make daily stops at the Belize Airport to pick up mail and passengers and to refuel; the northbound aircraft passing to Havana, Cuba, and on to Miami, Florida; the southbound aeroplane flying to Guatemala and other central American republics. British West Indian Airways maintain a weekly service from Belize to Kingston, Jamaica.

A Mexican aircraft company, Transportes Aereos Mexicanos, S.A. (TAMSA), operates a passenger and mail service between Merida and the Yucatan Peninsula, from whence a connecting plane to New Orleans is available.

Arrivals of civil aircraft numbered 1,027 with a tonnage of 8,857.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There are 32 post offices in the Colony. In 1946, the number of articles dealt with was 882,654. The value of internal money and postal order business amounted to \$107,598, and to \$180,209 for external transactions.

Telephone offices, which also transact telegraph business, number 72. The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Chetumal, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with other countries.

There is a wireless station in Belize for the transaction daily of radio-telegraph business with stations in other countries—Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City, and New Orleans. Transmitting and receiving equipment is also installed at the Belize Airport, but this is normally confined to the use of Airline Companies. Excluding messages relating to the conduct of the service, weather reports, and Press messages, 10,809 radio telegrams were transmitted and 11,753 were received in 1946.

Items of news interest are broadcast daily at 12.30 p.m. from the Belize Wireless Station, ZIK2, on a wavelength of 28.31 metres. Weather reports are broadcast frequently during periods of proximity of hurricanes.

The charges on radiograms to Great Britain, Eire, British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Canada, Newfoundland and to all points in the United States of America are as follows:

Ordinary (Full Rate)	per word	20 cents	
Code (C D E)	„	12 cents	
Deferred (L C)	„	10 cents	
Night Letter (N L T)	„	6½ cents	Minimum 25 words
(G L T)	„	6½ cents	Minimum 12 words
Press U.K. (Press)	„	2 cents	
U.S.A. (Press)	„	6½ cents	

PUBLIC WORKS

Public works, other than roads, completed during the year, included the construction of police stations at August Pine Ridge and Seine Bight, quarters for the Assistant Conservator of Forests at Cayo, and an extension to the Government Printing Office.

Chapter XII: Lands and Survey

An aerial survey of part of the Colony was made by the Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., just before the late war, and the work of plotting this survey has been progressing slowly but steadily, using very elementary equipment. The draft plans are now in the process of being traced on sheets 24 in. by 36 in. These will be completed by April, 1947, and the Colonial Survey Organization has offered to print these sheets in the first instance, as a provisional edition in black outline. Later when a field check has been made fair drawings will be made and the sheets printed in colour.

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

British Honduras, 5,700 miles from the United Kingdom and 600 miles west of its better-known sister colony of Jamaica, lies on the mainland of Central America facing eastwards across the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 8,598 square miles, it is approximately the same size as Wales, and nearly twice the size of Jamaica. The Colony lies between North latitudes of $18^{\circ} 29' 5''$ and $15^{\circ} 53' 55''$ and between West longitudes of $89^{\circ} 9' 22''$ and $88^{\circ} 10'$. To the North and North-west, the frontier with Mexico is formed by the River Hondo. The frontier with the only other neighbouring republic, Guatemala, is, in the south, the River Sarstoon from the Gracias a Dios Falls to the sea, while a line drawn from these falls to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River and thence due North to the Mexican frontier on the Hondo forms the western boundary. The greatest length of the Colony from North to South is about 174 miles with a greatest width from East to West of approximately 68 miles. The coast of British Honduras is very well sheltered from the rough seas of the Caribbean by an almost continuous line of coral reefs and 'cays' lying at distances of from ten to forty miles from the mainland. The harbour of Belize is almost surrounded by sheltering reefs—a factor which has done much to promote the growth of the port as the most important in the Colony. North of Belize, coastal waters are unusually shallow with a general depth of no more than six feet. At Commerce Bight, three miles south of the town of Stann Creek, the deepest water in the Colony is found and until the pier was destroyed by a severe storm in 1941, medium sized, ocean going, vessels were able to berth alongside. For the most part, coastal lands are low and swampy and the Northern part of the Colony is flat, large areas of land rising very little above sea level.

In the area south of Belize, there is a central mountain massif of a general elevation of 2,000–3,000 feet above sea level, comprising on the east, the Maya Mountain Range, and on the west, an area of pine ridge over 120 square miles in extent. The Maya Mountains, which include the Cockscomb Spur, possessing a peak of over 3,700 feet, are by no means fully explored, and difficulties of terrain are such as to make expeditions for detailed survey very costly.

The pine ridge provides some of the best scenery in the Colony, and the large tracts of open space suggest attractions for the tourist. Remoteness from rivers and roads would render the extraction of the pine an uneconomic proposition.

Numerous rivers, not all of which are easily navigable by any kind of craft, provided until recent times almost the only means of communication with the interior: the most important, the Belize River, can be negotiated in all but the very dry months by specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, for 120 miles upstream. No thorough survey of

the soil of the Colony has yet been made but it is believed that there are several uncultivated areas where profitable agriculture could be carried on, and there are similar hopes that a geological survey would not be found unproductive.

CLIMATE

In its climate, British Honduras is certainly favoured. Trade winds, blowing from the sea over a great part of the year, keep temperatures down, in coastal areas, to a level below that of such cities as New York and Washington in the summer months. Even in the hotter months of May to October the shade temperatures do not go over 93°. Inland, in the Western District, day temperatures may exceed 100° but cooler nights are experienced. During cold spells, which may occur between November and February, the temperature may go down in Belize to 50° though the mean for this period is nearer 70°.

Rainfall shows some sharp annual variations but the mean over the last five years is seventy-three inches in Belize, which is also typical of what would be regarded as a normal year. Average rainfall in the North is no more than about sixty inches while in the Southern District the yearly average is nearer 200 inches.

The climate of the Colony, which in the cooler months is particularly delightful, is quite suitable for people used to temperate zones and little, if any, impairment to health is suffered from prolonged residence. The high 3,000 feet plateau of the mountain pine ridge is quite suitable as a hill station, a project which may be realized when the major road programme is accomplished.

Chapter II: History of British Honduras

The incompleteness and the paucity of many of the records from which the history of British Honduras has to be gathered make research fascinating, but, at times, rather exasperating. The humidity of the climate has not favoured the storage of documents, but such as remain provide stories with a Ballantyne flavour of adventure.

Of the early settlement of the Colony by Maya Indians, much remains to be told; but there is ample evidence of considerable Mayan settlements all over the Colony which indicate that a population much greater than that existing at present was supported, though on a much lower standard. For the archaeologist, there is wealth of material to be unearthed.

Here, we are concerned with the history of the Colony following the discoveries in the Western Hemisphere in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Columbus is thought to have sailed down the coast in 1502, when he set out from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies.

The first Britons to set foot in the country are believed to have sailed from Jamaica about 1638. Finding abundant supplies of logwood, then much in demand for the manufacture of dyes in Europe, they began a settlement which was maintained with fluctuating fortunes through 150 years of struggle and strife with the Spanish. It appeared that friendly

relations and treaties between Britain and Spain made no difference to the local struggle and it was not until 1798 that an end to the skirmishes could be written.

By 1670 when Spain made a treaty ceding to Britain all lands in the West Indies and in any part of America held by the British, the settlement, near the mouth of the Belize River and at St. George's Cay, an island some ten miles East of the river mouth, included 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. About this time, the prosperity of the settlement was brought to the notice of King Charles II by a report of the Governor of Jamaica that it had 'increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies'.

An early reference to slaves was included in a report of an attack by the Spanish some distance inland at Labouring Creek in 1754, when it was said that, principally by their efforts, the raiders were repulsed. In 1779, the Spanish seem to have had some success when they captured and carried away a great many of the settlers at St. George's Cay. Subsequently, after suffering ill-treatment in Mexico and Cuba, the captives were allowed to return. A further development occurred in 1786, when, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain gave up her claims to the Mosquito Coast in return for Spanish recognition of the existing settlement in British Honduras, but this arrangement seems either not to have been brought to the notice of, or to have been disregarded by, the Spanish in the Caribbean area, as the attacks continued. In their final effort in 1798, they appear to have employed larger forces than ever before and little attention seems to have been given to achieving surprise for the local settlers had time for a number of parleys and to gather together their forces inferior in point of fighting strength. The action at St. George's Cay was decisive and final and, today, the anniversary is honoured by a public holiday accompanied by patriotic celebrations.

Events in Mexico from 1848 to 1867 had their repercussions in British Honduras, for the rebellion of the Indians of Yucatan in 1849 caused many Spaniards to settle in the Northern part of the Colony. When in 1867 Mexico finally overthrew the Spanish administration, Indians made repeated raids into the Colony until a garrison of Imperial Troops finally made such incursions unremunerative. Spanish

From the very first beginnings of the settlement, until recent times, a greater measure of freedom to manage their own affairs appears to have been accorded to the people of British Honduras than was given to the settlers in other colonies. Until 1786, persons were appointed at an annual public meeting to act as Magistrates, on whom the responsibility of discharging executive and judicial functions devolved.

The King in 1765 gave a 'constitution to the people' founded on their ancient customs, the most important of which were legislating by public meetings and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people. Admiral Sir William Burnaby, accompanied by Captain Cook, was sent to the Colony to codify the laws and customs and to arrange for the inhabitants of the Colony to be put into full possession of their lands and associated rights.

Following the declaration of the settlement as a Colony in 1862, a Lieutenant-Governor, subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica, was appointed, and, in 1870, he became the President of a newly constituted Legislative Assembly, the composition of which included five official, and not less than four unofficial members.

Independence of Jamaica came in 1884 with the appointment of a Governor and a Commander-in-Chief.

The economic disaster, following a hurricane which overwhelmed Belize and the adjacent countryside in 1931, necessitated the seeking of the aid of the Imperial Exchequer and the subsequent surrender of the control of finance. As a result, major changes in the constitution were made in 1935 by the passing of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, and, after amendments to this Ordinance in 1938 and 1945, the Legislative Council now consists of the Governor, as President, three official and ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated and six elected from five constituencies. The Governor was given power, in certain circumstances, to assent to any bill which the Council failed to pass.

The main economy of British Honduras has been based, since the first settlement, on her forests. By the time the demand for logwood declined, the mahogany tree had already become a more profitable export and it has remained for a century the principal forest product. Other exports from the forest have centred upon cedar, pine and the sapodilla tree, from which chicle gum is extracted. Coconuts have also been an important export.

With a forest tradition ingrained in him, the average British Honduran has not taken heed of exhortations to settle on the land, and indeed the experiences of some of the settlers have not been encouraging, for most of them have only eked out a meagre living. Bananas were flourishing when the Stann Creek railway project was begun in 1905 to improve transportation, but an imported disease has relegated banana growing to an insignificant position.

The citrus industry in the Stann Creek Valley is now well established and although during the latter half of the war a government subsidy to growers became necessary, due to temporary loss of markets, the original position had been regained toward the end of 1946. A sugar factory, erected in the sugar cane growing area in the northern plain in 1935, has not been productive of a high grade sugar, and it has not supplied, in entirety, the requirements of the Colony. Rum distilleries in the same neighbourhood produce a spirit which has only a local market.

The social development of the peoples of British Honduras has not, on the whole, been marked by the sudden spurts which appear to have marked progress in other countries; rather, to the casual observer, has it been by almost imperceptible change year by year. The Education Ordinance of 1892 established a Board of Education, with the Governor as Chairman, to promote education, to provide for the administration of schools, and to allot grants in aid from funds voted by the legislature. In 1915 the Governor with the consent of the Board was empowered to declare compulsory school attendance areas. Noteworthy improvements

in the standard of teaching recently have followed the provision of better training facilities and stimulation has come from the institution of annual Teachers' Vacation Courses.

Public Health appears to have received its chief impetus in the latter half of the last century, but administrators of the Public Health Ordinances are always somewhat discouraged by the absence of proper water supplies and sewerage systems.

During the last six years, the policy of sending for training abroad, under grants administered by the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, selected persons for hospital and public health duties has had encouraging results in a higher standard of service and efficiency. The establishment of a training cadre for a rural nursing service has been the most significant feature of the Medical Service in the last three years. A scheme for the provision of meals for needy school children is as yet no more than an ideal.

It was not until 1945 that a Social Welfare Officer was appointed, and he was gravely handicapped by the absence of any voluntary organizations on which he could found the nucleus of a Social Welfare Scheme. There were no handicrafts, no co-operative or marketing unions, and no village community centres; but there were Credit Unions, the first of which were established only a short time before he arrived. With the return from Jamaica of an officer sent for handicraft training, handicrafts were introduced to the main institutions, the Prison, the Mental Hospital and the Industrial School for boys, which had been established in the Stann Creek Valley in 1926. With the resignation of the first Social Welfare Officer, plans are being made to associate Social Welfare with the development of the Colony.

Chapter III: Administration

The administration and government of the Colony devolve upon the Governor and an Executive Council, constituted by Royal Instructions given in 1936 and in 1945, and providing for three *ex-officio* members and of such other persons, whom the Governor may appoint in accordance with the instructions. At the close of the year, the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General were the *ex-officio* members and there were five other appointments of whom the Senior Medical Officer was one. Appointments are for a period of three years.

The Legislative Council, in its present form, is constituted by the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance of 1935 together with the amendment Ordinance of 1945; the composition, with the Governor as President, being three *ex-officio* members (only two have been appointed, the Colonial Secretary, who holds the office of Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General) ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions received in 1936 and 1945, and six elected from five constituencies, there being two members for the Belize District.

All questions are decided by a majority of the votes given, the Governor having an original, and also a casting vote, but of the greatest interest to Unofficial Members of the Council is the provision in the

1935 enactment of what are described as the Governor's reserve powers, which, briefly, give him the authority to declare his assent to any bill, resolution or vote, which he considers necessary in the interests of public order or good government, or to secure detailed control of the finances of the Colony, while financial assistance is being received from His Majesty's Exchequer. In making any such declaration, the Governor is required to inform the Council of his reasons and to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor may refuse to give his assent to any bill passed by the Legislative Council, or he may reserve his assent for the signification of the approval of His Majesty; no law is effective until it has received his assent.

The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice and a Magistrate for the City of Belize. In the out-districts judicial functions are exercised by the District Commissioners. In addition, two or more Justices of the Peace may exercise the judicial functions of a District Commissioner. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice, who is appointed by Letters Patent under the Public Seal of the Colony by the Governor. One of the officers of the Court is the Registrar General, who has power to administer oaths and take solemn declarations, or affirmations in lieu of oaths.

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor by Warrant under his hand and under Public Seal; they may be appointed for the whole Colony, or for a district, or for a portion of a district. Similarly they may be removed by warrant.

Administratively the Colony is divided into five districts, of which the Belize District, containing the capital, has the largest population. The other districts are the Northern with headquarters at Corozal, the Western, whose administrative headquarters are at El Cayo, the Stann Creek District administered from Stann Creek town, and the Toledo District in the South with Punta Gorda as the only important town. The Commissioner for each district, excepting Belize, exercises the prescribed judicial functions and acts, at the same time, as Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector of Customs and District Postmaster. Except in one district the Commissioner is also chairman of the local Town Board.

Town Boards are constituted under the District Town Boards Ordinance of 1938, which gives power to the Governor in Council to add to, or delete from, the list of towns to which the Ordinance applies. Boards may be either wholly nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected: nominated members are appointed by the Governor.

A Town Board is required to meet each quarter and at such other times as required by its rules or when convened by the Chairman, who is appointed either by the Governor or from one of their number as he may direct. It is entrusted with the duty of attending to the good government of the town, and it may establish markets, slaughter-houses, baths and washhouses, may provide for public lighting, the naming and numbering of its streets, and carry on such other duties as the Governor orders by notice in the Gazette.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

The standard Imperial Weights and Measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, which places on the Superintendent of Police the duties of inspection of weights and measures at least once in every three months.

The legal standards to be used are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) for articles sold by weight | Imperial troy and avoirdupois |
| (b) for capacity (liquids and dry goods) | Imperial gallon |
| (c) for capacity (goods usually sold by the bushel) | Bushel of eight Imperial gallons or 80 pounds avoirdupois |
| (d) for extension | Standard yard measure of 36 inches. |

A copy or model of the standards must be kept in the office of each District Commissioner and inspections are to be made at least once in every three months.

Chapter V: Newspapers and Periodicals

The one newspaper published is the *Daily Clarion*, a small one-sheet evening issue with a low circulation.

For official purposes, the *Government Gazette* is issued weekly and is available to private subscribers on payment of an annual subscription of five dollars.

There are no other regular publications and, in the main, people of British Honduras rely upon the wireless set and certain weekly American publications for their news of the world.

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Late Ceramic Horizons at Benque Viejo, British Honduras. By J. Eric Thompson. With notes on 'Classification of Painted Wares' by Anna O. Shepard. Reprinted from Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publication 528. Washington, 15th December, 1940.

Living Treasure. By Ivan T. Sanderson. Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York, 1941.

Brief Sketch of British Honduras. Revised by A. H. Anderson. 1944, Government Printer, Belize.

**LIST OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT
PRINTING OFFICE, BRITISH HONDURAS**

	\$
1. Agricultural Report (Annual)25
2. Customs Report (Annual)	1.00
3. Education Report (Annual)25
4. Forestry Report (Annual)25
5. Labour Report (Annual)25
6. Medical Report (Annual)50
7. Survey Report (Annual)25
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9. Sessional Papers	1.00
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11. Ordinances (Bound vols.)	1.00
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17. Dodd's Report on the Belize Harbour50
18. Archives of British Honduras (Per volume)	2.00
„ „ „ (Set of three volumes)	5.00
19. Board of Education Rules15
20. Post Office Guide25
21. Report of the Committee of Nutrition on the Colony of British Honduras	1.00
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23. Customs Tariff—Ordinance 1 of 193515
24. Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part I75
25. Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part II65
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30. Housing in the West Indies30
31. Enquiry into the Educational System of British Honduras	1.50
32. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure	1.00

		\$
33.	Government Gazette—single copies . . . . .	.15
	subscription per year	5.00
34.	Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of British Honduras . . . . .	.25
35.	Cost of Education . . . . .	.10
36.	Social Welfare (a series of nine broadcasts made by the B.B.C.) .	.10
37.	Report of the Development Planning Committee, 1946	1.00

MAPS

1. Cadastral Plan of Belize, 200 feet to 1 inch.
2. Sectional Map of the Colony, 4 miles to 1 inch.
3. Small Scale Map, suitable for reports.

A limited number of Maps indicating annual and monthly rainfall, geology, alienation of Crown land, etc., is available.

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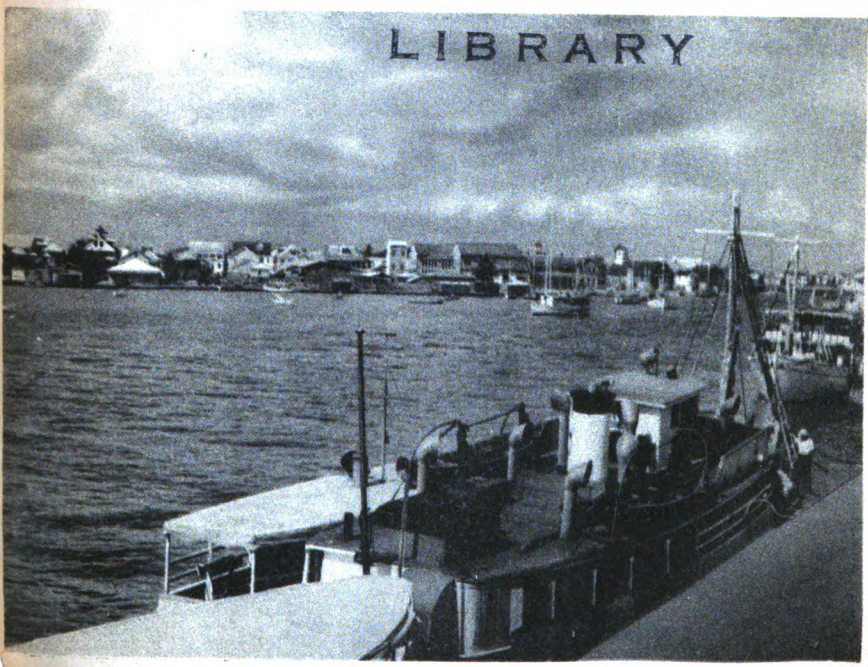
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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those
relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates
for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with
some additions, be the same as for the previous year
(see list on cover page 3).

ANNUAL REPORT ON BRITISH HONDURAS

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

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PART I

General Review

THE outstanding events of the year under review relate more to first steps taken in new directions than to the tangible progress which has in fact been made in matters already in hand. The first of such events is the Conference on the Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies held at Montego Bay, Jamaica, in September at which the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies presided and to which this Colony sent its delegates—three members of the Legislative Council, with the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General as Advisers. The other event is the visit in November of the Commission, under the chairmanship of Sir Geoffrey Evans to investigate the desirability of settling in British Honduras, persons from some of the over-populated Colonies in this area.

It is, of course, not possible at this stage to say whither these ventures may lead but each one, fraught as it is with great possibilities, has aroused considerable interest and given rise to not a little discussion: the fact that the wheels have been set in motion has created, throughout the Colony, a feeling of real expectancy, and one or other of these projects has brought to many a measure of encouragement as to the future of the Colony.

Development within the Colony was mainly connected with improvement in the system of road communications. A new road from Corozal to St. Helena on the Mexican Border at the Rio Hondo was completed, and this will improve communication with Chetumal, capital of the Mexican province of Quintana Roo, when a new ferry has been constructed. Work on the Belize-Cayo road was pushed ahead, and a further 14 miles of all weather road was completed. A new road from Belize to the Cayo road *via* Hector Creek was started; this will reduce by 11 miles the road distance between Belize and El Cayo. On the 2nd September the fine new Haulover Bridge five miles from Belize, was opened, and during the year extensive repairs to roads through four miles of swamp between Belize and the Haulover Bridge were completed.

Foreign concerns showed signs of interest in developing a fishery trade with the Colony, and lobsters were exported to the U.S.A. and Guatemala. One American-owned trawler with deep freeze apparatus was engaged in taking lobster tails and a variety of frozen fish to Miami, Florida.

The total revenue of the Colony increased from a 1945 figure of \$1,924,171 to \$2,206,218 in 1947. Internal taxation, which produced \$479,050 in 1945, increased to \$639,150 in 1947. This was mainly due to an increase in income tax revenue from \$186,364 in 1945 to \$346,818 in 1947, and to import duties which, owing to the high cost of merchandise, increased by some

\$300,000 between 1945 and the end of 1947. A gradual annual increase in exports of pine lumber and mahogany lumber was also reflected in improved figures for export duty. No grant-in-aid was drawn from His Majesty's Exchequer in 1947.

On the 1st February, some 200 sawmill employees went on strike for higher wages. The matter was submitted to arbitration, and following the publication of the award of the single arbitration, the strikers returned to work a little over a fortnight later.

The Legislative Council was mainly concerned with legislation of a social nature, the principal Ordinances being those related to Credit Unions, Rent Restriction, Town and Country Planning, and Slum Clearance and Housing.

In October, 1942, the War Office assumed military control in the Colony and established the British Honduras Battalion, North Caribbean Force. In 1944 a contingent of sixty-six other ranks and three officers of the Battalion left Belize for active service overseas and returned in January, 1946. The Battalion was disbanded on the 1st July, 1947.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

At a Census taken in April, 1946, the population of the Colony was 59,149, and at the end of 1947 it was estimated to be 61,503, comprising 29,835 males and 31,668 females. Intermixing is such that racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but it may be said that the Northern and Western Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of Spanish and Maya Indian peoples. In the Capital, the 'Creoles' (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority though there are a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and of Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States nationals. There is in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, a predominance of Caribs but Maya Indians have some large settlements in the extreme South.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles</i>	<i>Persons per Square Mile</i>
Belize	27,870	1,623	17.18
Northern	12,810	2,180	5.87
Stann Creek ..	6,614	840	7.87
Toledo	6,522	2,125	3.06
Cayo	7,687	1,830	4.20
<hr/>			
Colony	61,503	8,598	7.15

A review of the 1931 and 1946 census figures shows increases in the population of all the Districts except the Northern, which declined 3.81 per cent., although the preponderance of births over deaths from year to year during the intervening period would have lead one to expect an increase. This position rather supports the general view of a trend to concentration in Belize due to the exodus, from the agriculturally—important Northern District, of small-planters, who, it is common belief, have forsaken the land in search of more lucrative occupations. The slightest margin of increase is to be observed in the Toledo District (2.42 per cent.), which is no doubt due partly to abnormal death rates throughout the years 1931 to 1946, (which reached the alarming figure of 53.6 in 1945), and partly to migration from the District of its residents in search of employment.

Births per thousand of the population showed an appreciable change on previous years, the rates being 32 in 1944, 33.2 in 1945, 34.3 in 1946 and 40.2 in 1947. Deaths, which were just over 18 per thousand in 1944 and 1945, declined to 16.9 in 1946 (probably due to a sharp decline in the infantile mortality rate from 14 per cent. of the births in 1944 and 1945 to 10.5 in 1946), and recorded at 17.5 in 1947. The infantile mortality rate, which, in Belize, rose from 8.01 in 1946 to 10.65, is highest in the Toledo District with its large Maya population, which recorded rates of over 27 per cent. in 1944 and 1945, but declined to just under 19 in 1946 and further to 16.5 in 1947. The rates in the other Districts were as follows: Northern 14.92; Stann Creek 8.46; Cayo 13.82 and for the Colony, 12.01.

Chapter II: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

In British Honduras the employment available in the forest industries, the mainstay of the Colony's economy, is largely seasonal, timber extraction operations being principally confined to the first six months of the year when the dry weather permits logging over primitive roads, while chicle bleeding is carried out in the wet months, July to February, as rains induce a good flow of gum from the trees.

A statement of the particulars of the employment available in the principal occupations follows:

Industry or Occupation	Number employed	Wages or earnings	Approximate average hours per week	Remarks
PRIMARY PRODUCTION				
<i>Mahogany</i> Labourers	926	\$20.00 to \$23.00 per month plus rations at \$2.50 per week	50	Employment usually seasonal from October to June.
Tractor and Truck Drivers	212	\$60.00 to \$75.00 per month and rations at \$3.50 per week	50	
Other Workers	305	\$30.00 a month and rations at \$3.50 per week	50	
	1,443			
<i>Pine and other secondary woods</i>				
Fellers and others engaged in the extraction of logs from the forests	160	\$1.68 per day	50	
Tractor and Truck Drivers	43	\$50.00 to \$65.00 a month	50	
Other Workers	35	\$1.50 per day	50	

Industry or Occupation	Number employed	Wages or earnings	Approximate average hours per week	Remarks
<i>Chicle</i> Bleeders	1,688	25 cents a pound for Crown Gum and 35 cents a pound for Superior Gum. Average earnings \$75.00 per month	50	Seasonal employment June to March.
Muleteers and others	74	\$30.00 per month	50	
	1,762			
<i>Public Works Department</i> Road Labourers	382	\$1.44 and \$1.68 a day	48	Intermittent employment averaging 10 days a month.
Lorry Drivers	44	\$2.48 a day	48	
Carpenters	38	\$2.25 to \$3.80 a day	48	
Other Tradesmen	111	\$2.00 to \$4.00 a day	48	
	575			
<i>SERVICES</i> <i>Transport of goods by sea</i> (i) Stevedore Labourers	90	35 cents per hour (and food free) plus overtime		
(ii) Stevedores loading logs	60	50 cents to 75 cents per hour		
Dock Labourers	75	30 cents per hour		
	225			
<i>Distributive Trades—Wholesale and Retail (Belize)</i> Shop Assistants Male	145	\$3.00 to \$30.00 weekly	45	
Female	163	\$2.50 to \$10.00 weekly	45	
Office Clerks Male	54	\$5.00 to \$30.00 weekly	45	
Female	28	\$5.00 to \$15.00 weekly	45	

Industry or Occupation	Number employed	Wages or earnings	Approximate average house per week	Remarks
Shop Assistants (District Towns)				
Male	51	\$2.00 to \$10.00 weekly	60	
Female	24	\$3.00 to \$6.00 weekly	60	
	470			
Agriculture				
Coconut Plantations	100	\$1.00 a day	48	
Cattle Farms (Western District)	150	\$22.48 a month	48	
Cane Fields	420	\$1.00 a day	60	During crop season—January to May. Out of crop season.
Cane Fields	216	\$1.00 a day	48	
	886			
SECONDARY PRODUCTION				
Sawmills				
Supervisors and clerical workers	24	\$2.75 to \$5.00 a day	48	
Machinery attendants and operators	147	\$2.00 to \$3.00 a day	48	
Labourers handling lumber	287	\$1.30 to \$1.50 a day	48	
	458			
Factories				
Aerated Water				
Male	32	Average wages \$6.00 a week	45	
Female	31	Average wages \$4.00 a week	45	
Cigarette				
Male	7	Average wages \$8.00 a week	45	
Female	14	Average wages \$7.00 a week	45	
Canning grapefruit juice				
Male	68	\$1.20 to \$3.00 a day	48	
Female	64	80 cents to \$1.20 a day	48	

Industry or Occupation	Number employed	Wages or earnings	Approximate average house per week	Remarks
Soap Male	9	Average wages \$9.00 per week	45	During crop.
Female	1	Average wages \$8.00 per week	45	
Sugar Male	154	\$1.50 to \$2.75 per day	72	
	480			
Boat Building and Repairing Ship Carpenters	76	35 cents to 47 cents per hour	48	

Cost of Living

From a survey held by the Labour Department in 1942 embracing 100 working class families in Belize it was found that the average amounts paid out weekly under the main groups of household expenditure were as follows:

Food	\$7.00
Clothing	1.37
Rent	1.20
Fuel, Light and Washing ..	0.98
Other Items	2.30
	<hr/>
	\$12.95

Price levels at the time of the survey were 34.7 above pre-war conditions and as the index figure had risen to 206 by the end of 1947 the cost of maintaining unchanged the 1942 standards of living would then have been approximately \$26.66.

The trend of the cost of living in 1947 is shown by the index figures hereunder:

1st January	197
1st April	203
1st July	206
1st October	206

No accurate records are available as to the cost of living for Europeans but the rates for hotels and boarding houses vary from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a day, and from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a month.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Size and Work of the Labour Department

The Labour Department was established in 1939 with duties following

closely those of other colonies. The staff during 1947 consisted of the Labour Officer, one Second Class Clerk and an office messenger. A Labour Inspector was appointed on the 22nd March, 1947, to assist the Labour Officer in carrying out inspections and other work of the department.

Trade Unions

At the close of 1947 there were three registered trade unions: their memberships were reported to be as follows:—

(a) The British Honduras General Workers Union, a general union comprising all classes of workers formed in 1939, including domestic servants, with a total membership (including three branches in the Districts) of 2,242;

(b) The Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Painters Union which as its name implies, is confined to the groups of workers named. Its membership was reported as 140.

(c) The National Labour Union, formed on the 26th July, 1947, whose membership is confined to labourers only and excludes other classes of workers unless they are unable to obtain membership with any of the other registered trade unions. Their membership was stated to be 64 on the 31st December.

No associations of employers have yet been formed.

Labour Disputes

In consequence of a wages dispute between the workers at the Belize Sawmill, who were represented by the British Honduras General Workers Union, and the management a strike began on the 1st February. The provisions of the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939, were invoked and the men resumed work on 17th February following the appointment of an arbitrator. 252 workers were involved and 3,024 man-days of employment were lost. The award afforded the men substantial increases of pay with retrospective effect from the 15th January.

90 factory workers employed at the Corozal Sugar Factory in the Northern District struck work on the 8th April and presented demands for increases in their pay varying from 70 to 100 per cent. Through the mediation of the Labour Officer work was resumed the following day and the men were granted increases averaging 25 per cent. 135 man-days of employment were lost.

On the 10th June 55 dock labourers refused to continue working after hours unless certain demands for increased overtime were met. The claims were refused and new labour engaged the following day. As in the case of the strike at the Corozal Sugar Factory none of the men involved in this stoppage of work were members of any trade union.

Labour Legislation

The relations between master and servant are controlled by the Employers and Workers Ordinance, No. 6 of 1943, which repealed and replaced previous legislation dating as far back as 1883.

A system of workmen's compensation for accidents sustained during the

course of their employment was established in 1943. It follows closely the system in other West Indian colonies. Agricultural workers are included in its scope and insurance is available from various firms operating in the Colony.

The Factories Ordinance, No. 9 of 1942, provides for the maintenance of machinery safeguards and for the regulation of the conditions of employment in factories.

The establishment and registration of Trade Unions is governed by the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, whilst the settlement of trade disputes may be effected by arbitration under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939, when voluntary means fail.

Other ordinances in force govern the practices of recruiting, provide for the fixing of minimum wages, and regulate the employment of women, young persons and children.

There is no legislation to provide for old age pensions, or for relief in cases of sickness. The indigent receive outdoor relief from a charity vote which is administered by the Outdoor Relief Committee and the sick are given free treatment at Government hospitals if they are found to be destitute.

Labour Legislation

The only changes of significance were two amendments to the Trades Union Ordinance (No. 1 of 1941) dealing with "injury" and "intimidation" so as to bring the local law into conformity with the law in the United Kingdom as it now stands following the repeal of the Trades Dispute and Trade Unions Act, 1927.

Chapter III: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Throughout the war years, it was not found possible to meet Government Expenditure, which increased steadily, year by year, entirely from Revenue raised within the Colony, notwithstanding the considerable expansion which took place in Customs Duties and Income Tax. The resultant annual deficit was met by a grant-in-aid from His Majesty's Treasury, except in 1947 when it was not required.

1. Accounts for the Calendar Year 1947

The surplus brought forward from 1946 amounted to \$222,090, which did not include \$29,480 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. True revenue for 1947 is shown at \$2,505,798, while true expenditure is given as \$2,476,584. The surplus at the end of December 1947 was \$253,263 which did not include \$27,162 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. No grant-in-aid was drawn from His Majesty's Exchequer during the year 1947.

Revenue

The total true revenue of the Colony rose from \$1,924,171 in 1945 to \$2,505,798 in 1947, the figure for 1946 being \$2,206,218. Comparative figures for three years are shown below under the principal heads.

	1945	1946	1947
	\$	\$	\$
Customs, including Surtaxes ..	884,007	920,440	1,227,026
Internal Taxation	479,070	579,180	639,150
Revenue of Government Property	98,202	106,509	190,670
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ..	108,432	232,552	134,036
Self-balancing Revenue (Posts & Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Power)	231,130	251,605	225,995
Interest and Sinking Fund of repayments	84,171	73,414	61,086
Miscellaneous	39,159	40,113	27,835
True Revenue ..	1,924,171	*2,203,813	2,505,798

Receipts from Imperial Funds

Colonial Development & Welfare	412,459	352,399	435,360
Grant-in-aid	169,260	80,600	—
Total Revenue ..	2,505,890	2,636,812	2,941,158

The Internal Taxation increases were largely due to the growing yield from income tax, which in 1945 was \$186,364, in 1946 \$260,458 and in 1947 \$346,818.

Expenditure

The comparative figures shown below have been classified under main heads.

	1945	1946	1947
	\$	\$	\$
Administration	946,884	985,555	1,281,360
Social Services (Education, Health, Prisons, etc.)	395,325	401,118	476,028
Subventions (including price stabilization)	131,923	194,501	35,322
Public Debt	166,784	164,558	163,579
Public Works Improvements ..	268,328	168,199	153,765
Self-balancing Expenditure (Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and Electric Power)	154,339	168,482	244,206

*Provisional figures. Actual \$2,206,218.

Expenditure on Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes	371,940	356,845	433,401
Production (Agriculture & Forestry)	94,181	110,350	122,324
	<u>2,529,704</u>	<u>2,549,608</u>	<u>2,909,985</u>

Administration includes expenditure on Justice, Police, Pensions, Defence and some minor branches of Government work. The large increase in the expenditure on this head between 1944 and 1947 is explained by the grant of Cost of Living Bonuses to supplement salaries.

2. Public Debt

The outstanding debt of the Colony at the 31st December, 1947, amounted to \$1,653,025, of which sum \$96,500 was in respect of borrowings made locally. Sinking funds in hand amounted to \$310,440, thus giving a figure of \$1,342,585 as the net outstanding debt. The total interest being paid on the loans outstanding represents a rate of 4.3 per centum per annum. Of the total amount owing, the sum of \$452,619 is outstanding to the Imperial Treasury, being the balance of loans made in 1932 for reconstruction and development work following the hurricane in 1931. Loan charges, which in 1947 amounted to \$163,579, representing 5.6 per cent of the total expenditure, constitute a not inconsiderable burden on the revenues of the Colony.

3. Assets and Liabilities

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as at 31st December, 1947, shows Assets divisible as follows:

	\$
Cash	339,577
Investments of Various Funds	1,778,747
Advances to official and public organizations	165,858
	<u>\$2,284,182</u>

Liabilities may be classified briefly as shown below:

	\$
Unexpended balances of loans	3,342
Deposits—Fund balances, etc.	2,025,751
Drafts	1,826
Surplus	253,263
	<u>\$2,284,182</u>

In addition, the following information must be given to present a true account:

	\$
Public Debt of the Colony	1,653,025
Less accumulated Sinking Fund in hand ..	310,440
	<hr/> 1,342,585
Loan Investments	606,434
	<hr/>

The sum of \$27,162 was also due to the Colony on account of expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.

4. Description of the Main Heads of Taxation

The main heads and their yield in revenue are set out below:

	1945	*1946	1947
	\$	\$	\$
<i>Customs</i>			
Import Duties	745,676	766,845	1,042,246
Export Duties	75,360	90,670	117,195
Package Tax	51,491	50,936	53,435
Harbour Dues, etc.	11,480	11,995	14,150
<i>Internal Taxation, etc.</i>			
Excise Duties	195,363	220,031	186,862
Income Tax	186,364	260,458	346,818
Land Tax	37,476	40,242	39,653
Estate Duty	8,618	5,729	3,311
Licences, Banks & Fire Insurance Companies	1,411	1,376	1,443
Other Licences:			
Motor Vehicles, etc.	16,113	18,063	19,933
Fines of Court	11,783	11,763	17,385
Fees of Court and Stamp Duties	12,188	19,020	14,750
Warehouse Rents	34,768	32,547	37,886

Import Duties. The tariff of import duties is largely *ad valorem* with a general duty of 25 per centum and a preferential rate of 12½ per centum. Specific duties are levied on wines, certain defined spirits and tobacco and cigarettes. Equipment for agricultural and forestry operations is admitted free of duty.

Export Duties are levied upon chicle, coconuts, mahogany, cedar and pine.

Package Tax. This is a tax of 15 cents on every package passing through the Customs Department.

Excise Duty is imposed on locally produced rum at the rate of \$4.50 per proof gallon if intended for consumption within the Colony. There is also a small duty on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Land Tax. A tax is levied on all lands at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents an acre.

Income Tax. Increased rates of tax were imposed during 1946 providing for a levy on the chargeable income of any person at the rate of 5 per centum of the first \$1,000 increasing by a sliding scale up to 40 per centum on that part of incomes in excess of \$35,000. A surtax on a sliding scale is also levied on chargeable income in excess of \$4,000 being 10 per centum on the first \$5,000, 15 per centum on the next \$6,000 and 20 per centum on the remainder. Company Tax is at the rate of 30 cents on every dollar of chargeable income of a Company.

Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies. Any establishment carrying on the business of banking pays an annual licence fee of \$500, and Fire Insurance Companies pay a licence fee at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum on gross premiums with a minimum fee of 25 dollars.

Estate Duty. Duty is chargeable on estates over \$100 based on a scale which is \$1.00 per centum on estates up to \$500 increasing to \$15.00 per centum on estates over \$50,000.

Licences—Motor Vehicles. An annual duty is payable on all motor vehicles varying according to the weight of the vehicle, its classification, and the purpose it serves.

Stamp Duties. The chief features are impositions of 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange with 10 cents for every \$100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every \$50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse Rents. A charge is made on merchandise which is deposited in bond, usually for re-export.

5. Customs Tariff

Broadly, the Customs Schedule of Duties may be described as a two-part *ad valorem* tariff on C.I.F. prices with specific duties on a few selected articles. Under the general tariff, the majority of the small and general importations subject to *ad valorem* duties bear a 25 per cent imposition; under the preferential tariff the duty is one of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

As a consequence of an Ordinance passed in 1939 to impose as a wartime measure a surtax on certain Customs duties, the duty on a number of articles, the chief of which were bicycles, clocks, watches, hosiery, wines and spirits, cigarettes and sugar, was increased by 25 per centum; the duty on a few other articles was increased on a specific basis.

Equipment, such as trucks, tractors, carts, wagons and agricultural implements, imported to aid in agriculture or in forestry operations, is admitted free. Machinery for agricultural purposes, sugar manufacturing, marine purposes, and printing, together with sewing machines, are free under the Preferential Tariff and bear only a five per cent impost under the General Tariff.

Specific duties, with some qualifications, are levied on importations of cattle, on certain manufactured articles such as bicycles, boots and shoes, fuel oils and petroleum, on the chief items of food and on wines, spirits and tobacco.

Some imports, the principal of which are clocks, jewellery, cutlery, plated goods and jams, etc., bear a thirty per cent levy on the General Tariff and fifteen per cent on the Preferential.

6. Excise

Excise Duties are confined to rum and tobacco, the rate on the former being \$4.50 per gallon if not exceeding the strength of proof and \$4.50 per proof gallon. The rates on tobacco, as increased by a war surtax, are now

(a) cigars, weighing not more than 5 lb. per 1,000	20 cents per 100
weighing over 5 lb. per 1,000	50 cents per 100
(b) cigarettes weighing not more than 3 lb. per 1,000	10 cents per 100
weighing over 3 lb. per 1,000	20 cents per 100
(c) manufactured	40 cents per lb.

Stamp Duties. The main features have been described elsewhere in this chapter. Some specific rates are given below:

	\$
Affidavits and Declarations .. .. .	.50
Agreements: if not under seal .. .. .	.10
if under seal	2.50
Bills of Exchange payable on demand or at sight or on presentation or within three days after date or sight .. .. .	.03
Bill of Lading for export of goods .. .. .	.10
Bonds: For every \$50 or part of \$50 of the amount of the penalty .. .. .	.10
To a maximum	2.50
Deeds not charged with <i>ad valorem</i> duty	2.50
Leases, Tenancy Agreements for definite terms not exceeding a year:	
For a dwelling house rent less than \$96 p.a. .. .. .	.02
In other cases: if not under seal .. .. .	.10
if under seal	2.50
Passports	2.50
Renewal fee for each year .. .. .	.25
Share Warrants to bearer by a Company Registered in the Colony \$50 or part of \$50 of nominal value .. .. .	.75

7. Income Tax

Income Tax on individuals was payable at the following rates:

	\$			
On the first	1,000	of Chargeable Income	5%	
„ next	500	„ „	6%	
„ „	500	„ „	7%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	8%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	9%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	10%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	12½%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	15%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	17½%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	20%	
„ „	1,000	„ „	22½%	
„ „	5,000	„ „	25%	
„ „	20,000	„ „	30%	
On all amounts above	\$35,000	„ „	40%	

The rates of Surtax on Individuals were

On the first \$5,000 in excess of \$4,000 of Chargeable Income 10%

On the next \$6,000 15%

On the remainder 20%

The tax on Companies was 30%.

Incidence of Income Tax

Tax Payable

Gross Income	Single Person	Married Man	Married man with one child	Married Man with two children
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,000	20.00	7.50	1.25	—
1,500	42.50	30.00	23.75	17.50
2,000	68.00	53.00	46.25	40.00
3,000	131.00	111.50	102.75	94.00
4,000	204.00	183.00	173.00	163.00
5,000	285.00	262.50	251.25	240.00
6,000	485.00	435.00	410.00	385.00
7,000	710.00	653.75	625.62	597.00
8,000	960.00	897.50	866.25	835.00
9,000	1,235.00	1,166.25	1,131.87	1,097.00
10,000	1,535.00	1,460.00	1,422.50	1,385.00
15,000	3,510.00	3,410.00	3,360.00	3,310.00
20,000	5,910.00	5,785.00	5,722.50	5,660.00
35,000	13,410.00	13,285.00	13,222.50	13,160.00

Deductions allowed against gross income are:

Personal allowance	.. .. .	\$500
Wife	.. .. .	\$250
Each child	.. .. .	\$125
Earned Income 1/10 of gross income up to	..	\$500

8. Estate Duty

Under the provisions of an Ordinance in 1927, Estate Duty is payable according to a general scale as follows:

Where the principal value of the estate

Exceeds	\$		\$		\$
	100 but does not exceed		500	Duty to be payable at	1.00%
"	500	"	2,000	"	1.50%
"	2,000	"	4,000	"	2.00%
"	4,000	"	6,000	"	3.00%
"	6,000	"	10,000	"	3.50%
"	10,000	"	15,000	"	4.50%
"	15,000	"	20,000	"	5.50%
"	20,000	"	25,000	"	6.50%
"	25,000	"	30,000	"	8.00%
"	30,000	"	50,000	"	10.00%
"	50,000	"	—	"	15.00%

Chapter IV: Currency and Banking**CURRENCY***Standard and Legal Tender*

The standard of currency is the British Honduras dollar which is of the equivalent value of the dollar of the United States of America. Currency notes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 issued by the Currency Commissioners are legal tender up to any amount. Subsidiary silver currency is legal tender in payment of any amount not exceeding ten dollars but coins of bronze nickel or mixed metal in five cent or one cent pieces are legal tender up to fifty cents only.

Circulation

The note circulation of the Colony, which stood at \$283,536 at the 31st December, 1939, expanded to \$811,398 at the end of 1947. The figures for each denomination were as follows:

	<i>Number of Notes</i>	<i>Amount \$</i>
\$1	85,782	85,782
\$2	41,748	83,496
\$5	90,956	454,780
\$10	18,734	187,340

\$811,398

This figure represented an increase of \$1,510 over the quantity in circulation a year before. The reserve of notes, at the commencement of the year was \$265,000. In December 1947 new notes to the value of \$1,050,000 were received, making the total stock \$1,315,000. The issues amounted to \$99,000, leaving a balance on hand at 31st December of \$1,216,000.

Subsidiary Currency

Coins issued by the Colonial Government are as follows:

<i>Silver</i>		\$
50 cent pieces..	..	69,952
25 " " ..	..	49,389
10 " " ..	..	25,739
5 " " ..	..	5,546
<i>Mixed metal (nickel, bronze, etc.)</i>		
5 cent pieces..	..	18,003
1 " " (bronze)		12,054
		<hr/> \$180,683

Of this figure of \$180,683, a sum of \$50,000 in fifty and twenty-five cent pieces was held in 1946 at a specie value of \$15,000. During 1947 these coins were sent to the Royal Mint for disposal as bullion. The amount realized was \$15,248 above their book value.

BANKING

There is only one banking establishment in the Colony, that of the Royal Bank of Canada in Belize which was established in 1912 when the Bank of British Honduras was purchased. The Bank provides all the usual banking services.

The Government Savings Bank, operating from the Treasury in Belize, with a branch in the administrative centre of each district, increased its deposits from \$410,632 at the 1st January, 1939, to \$1,739,712 at the end of 1947. The deposits during 1947, decreased by \$3,738 as compared with the figures of the previous year. Account holders numbered 7,348 with an average holding of \$236.

Chapter V: Commerce

EXPORTS

The Colony's chief exports are mahogany and cedar logs, mahogany cedar and pine lumber, bananas, and citrus fruits, and re-exports of manufactured articles.

The total exports for the year 1947 amounted to \$6,142,601 as compared to \$5,222,028. Grapefruit Juice to the value of \$416,904 was exported during 1947 as against 1946 figures which were \$339,812. The exports of chicle gums were \$1,669,674, which represented an increase of \$725,492 over the figures of 1946. There has been a gradual annual increase of the exports of

pine lumber and mahogany lumber. The exports of pine lumber amounted to \$156,911 in 1947 and mahogany lumber \$1,089,784. The exports of mahogany logs, which went principally to the United States of America amounted to \$1,522,009. Coconuts exported amounted to 155,438 which showed a decrease of \$49,160 as compared with the 1946 figures.

IMPORTS

Imports showed an increase of \$1,873,736 compared with the previous year's figure of \$6,782,516, this is due principally to the high cost of merchandise. Mahogany logs imported into the Colony did not play a major part in the imports of 1947; the imports being in 1947 \$548,090, this however showed an increase over that of 1946, which was only \$41,679. The imports of rice during the current year amounted to 22,293 cwt. at a value of \$217,506; 1946 imports were 30,587 cwt. costing \$292,764. 36,868 bags of flour (196 lb.) cost \$510,051 in 1947 while 49,760 cost \$341,148 in 1946. The imports of motor cars and trucks and jeeps were 125 units to the value of \$218,751, while the previous year's imports were 118 vehicles valuing \$261,644. The value of imports of Cotton Piece Goods showed an increase of \$231,104 over the 1946 imports of \$308,193. Chicle gums imported for re-exports were valued at \$358,532, being an increase of only \$5,764 over 1946 imports.

Chapter VI: Production

AGRICULTURE

The Director of Agriculture was on leave pending retirement. A new Director was appointed in October. A Veterinary Officer was appointed in May. Other staff consisted of two Assistant Agricultural Officers, one Agricultural Instructor, one Junior Agricultural Instructor, two Senior Farm Demonstrators and eight Farm Demonstrators. In addition a number of temporary Farm Demonstrators were employed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for increased food production.

Crop Production.

The prolonged drought in the first six months of the year made planting of the principal grain crops difficult. Conditions during the second half of the year were favourable to crop production and harvesting. Accurate estimates of yields were difficult as the greater part of the principal agricultural crops were grown for home consumption and only a small fraction offered for sale. Observations in the field indicated a yield slightly above the average for most crops.

Approximate estimates of acreages and yields were:—

Maize (corn)	..	..	12,450 acres yielding	1,200 lb. per acre
Rice (paddy)	..	..	2,460 " "	1,000 " "
Beans (various)	..	..	800 " "	250 " "
Root Crops (yams, cassava, tannia)	..	..	2,000 acres yielding	2,500 lb. per acre

Plantains and bananas ..	3,300 acres	—
Coconuts	6,550 „	yielding 3,000 nuts per acre
Citrus	1,700 „	yield of grapefruit 120 boxes of 90 lb. each per acre.
Sugar-cane	1,750 „	yielding 13 tons cane per acre

Livestock Production

The long drought adversely affected the development of much of the livestock which was raised on grass almost entirely. With the drying up of pastures the livestock rapidly lost condition and did not recover satisfactorily until late in the year.

Approximate estimates for the various types of livestock were:—

Cattle (milk, beef and draught)	16,650
Pigs	11,300
Horses, Mules and Donkeys	4,200
Sheep	1,330
Goats	450
Poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks) ..	68,700

During the year the development of roads to the west and north of the Colony materially improved supplies of all animal produce coming into Belize.

Organization and Destination of Production

Grain Crops. The maize crop was produced principally in the Northern District. The rice crop was grown in the Toledo and Belize Districts. In both instances the greater part of the crop was consumed by the growers and only what was surplus to domestic requirements was sold.

Beans. Beans similarly were grown almost entirely to meet the domestic requirements of the peasant growers.

Coconuts. Production was principally by the small grower. During the year, 3,394,000 nuts valued at \$155,438 were exported almost entirely to the U. S. A. The remainder of the production was used locally for oil manufacture.

Citrus. Production for export was largely in the hands of a few large estate owners. An association of growers existed which provided for the sale to the juicing plant of the small producers' crop in the Stann Creek District. Exports were principally of juice which amounted to just under 6,000,000 lb. valued at \$416,900. In 1947 exports were almost entirely to the United Kingdom.

Sugar Cane. The industry was largely in the hands of the small grower. The only factory making white sugar is in the Northern District. This contracted to purchase most of its requirements of cane from the neighbouring small growers.

Production was below the requirements of the Colony. Production in 1947 amounted to 1,239 tons.

Marketing

The Board of Agriculture guaranteed minimum prices for produce such as corn, rice and beans which growers found surplus to their requirements and the restricted local markets for such produce. This policy was successful in encouraging the production of increased quantities of these crops. Unfortunately the prices offered by the Board of Agriculture tended to be regarded as the fixed price for each of these products.

FISHERIES

There is no Fisheries Department. Fishing in the Colony engages about 125 fishing doreys and smacks of a length varying from fifteen feet to thirty-five feet and averaging from half a ton to ten tons each, with an aggregate of 150 tons.

During the past year quite a large amount of lobsters and fish has been exported to the U. S. A. and Guatemala by air, by a few independent exporters and by two American companies, during the open seasons. There is one U.S. owned trawler with deep-freeze refrigeration storage, which fishes in the Colony's waters under licence of the Government and takes lobster tails and a variety of frozen fish to Miami, Fla.

FORESTRY

The principal forest products are:

- (a) Mahogany logs and lumber
- (b) Cedar logs and lumber
- (c) Pine lumber
- (d) Secondary hardwood logs and lumber
- (e) Rosewood sold by the ton
- (f) Chicle and Crown gum
- (g) Cohune kernels
- (h) Firewood and charcoal
- (i) Alligator skins

The total area of forest lands in the Colony is 8,337 square miles or 93.9 per cent of the total area. It consists of the following types:

I	Mangrove forests	.. .. .	approximately	2.8%
II	Savannahs			
	(a) Brackish water			
	(b) Fresh water	) Wet Savannahs	..	2.7%
	(c) Inland	Pine forest		
III	Pine forest	Dry Savannahs	..	15.4%
IV	High rain forest			
	1. Swamp forest	.. .. .	..	2.3%
	2. Intermediate forest	.. .. .	..	17.9%
	3. Mountain forest)			
	4. Advanced forest)			
		) Advanced forest	..	51.9%
V	Secondary rain forest)			
	(i) High forest)		

(ii) Existing and recently abandoned cultivation	7.0%
Total land area of mainland	100.0%

Mahogany logs may be cut from overmature trees in virgin forests far inland or from smaller trees which have reached the required size in cut over forests nearer the coast. They are hauled by caterpillar tractor to a main road where they are loaded on pneumatic-tyred tractors with long trailers capable of taking three or four whole trees containing 5,000 board feet at once. These transport them to a floatable river or the coast, after which they are floated to the sawmills of Belize or the ship's side if for export. Pine is seldom exported as a log. It is cut in the forest by smaller mills and the lumber is sent in lighters to the boat or market. There is a considerable local market for pine, both rough and dressed, as almost all houses are of wood.

Chicle is the base of chewing gum. Crown gum is another product obtained by tapping trees of the family Sapotaceae. It is mixed with chicle to produce chewing gum of a somewhat inferior type. They are both produced in the rains by chicleros and transported, after coagulation into blocks, on mule-back to the main rivers or the coast. Chicleros are individual contractors who produce from 500 to 2,000 lb. of chicle a season. They are licensed individually but agree to sell all their output at a stated price to a chicle contractor who has obtained permission to work the forest and who is responsible for the royalties. In 1947, 634 tons of domestic origin valued at \$1,311,080 were exported. There was a drop in the price paid for chicle and Crown gum after July 1947 owing to the competition of cheaper jetulong from Malaya.

Unlike 1946, the value and volume of mahogany logs and lumber cut within the Colony exceeded the value and volume of logs passing through the Colony from Peten and Mexico. The total export of Colony mahogany amounted to 810,100 cu. ft. valued at \$1,882,638.

The increase in the cutting of secondary hardwoods, notably Santa Maria continued and five new sawmills intended mainly for the pine lumber industry were installed. These led to an increase in pine lumber exports at the end of the year.

This increase interest in pine has made it necessary to take steps to regenerate pine forest cut over by ensuring the retention of parent seed trees and fire protection of cut over areas. By means of a jeep and fireline ploughs 12,465 acres of pine forest were subdivided by fire traces into 311 acre blocks. In addition 109 acres were planted with pine.

The drain on mahogany resources was partly made good by the planting of 55 acres with mahogany. The rest of the mahogany forest was policed to prevent the removal of trees smaller than the minimum girth limit. Food crops are grown as a sideline in mahogany and pine plantations. Receipts from the sale of food in 1947 amounted to \$1,885.

Chapter VII: Social Services

EDUCATION

The system of primary education is that of subsidized denominational schools and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). The Governor is President of the Board, while the Director of Education acts as Secretary. A representative of the teachers is included among its members.

There are seventy-eight primary schools, three of which are conducted by the Government. There are also some thirty-three unaided primary schools, both denominational and private. All primary schools are co-educational, with the exception of four in Belize. The ages of enrolment for the purposes of grants-in-aid are five to sixteen.

The school buildings in the Northern and in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts suffered greatly by hurricane in October, 1942, and October, 1945, respectively. Twenty-eight buildings were destroyed or damaged in the Northern District and fourteen in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts. Thus far thirteen buildings have been rebuilt with assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. These buildings, which are mostly of stone or concrete, are in many respects ideal rural school buildings.

Secondary education is entirely in the hands of the denominations, but the Government assists by providing sixty-five scholarships for pupils from primary schools, each scholarship being tenable for four years though it may be extended for a fifth year with the approval of the Board of Education. There are five secondary schools, three of which are for boys. All except one have preparatory departments. Teachers are mostly recruited from abroad. The age-range of pupils receiving secondary education proper is eleven to eighteen. The schools are all situated in Belize.

There is no vocational school, but handicrafts are taught at two schools in Belize, and instruction in domestic science is given to a limited number of girls from the higher standards at one centre in Belize. The teaching of agriculture is encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers, and by free grants of tools. The industrial school for male juvenile delinquents, which is conducted by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Government, was transferred from Stann Creek to a site near the Airfield, 8 miles from Belize.

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen. That the enforcement of compulsion has been a success may be inferred from the fact that the percentage of the average attendance to the enrolment in the Colony is approximately eighty, the highest in the British Caribbean area. Education is not yet free, however, each primary school pupil being expected to pay a fee of 5 cents (3d.) weekly; few in fact do so.

An average of 200 certificated teachers and fifty pupil teachers is employed in the primary schools. The majority of the teachers are untrained, but since 1941 selected teachers have been sent to training colleges in Jamaica, there being twelve such teachers training annually. Fourteen have thus far completed their training and have been posted to schools. Three supervisors,

originally appointed as Jeanes experiment by means of a Carnegie grant, are now permanent officers. They are rendering invaluable service in raising the standard of teaching in the schools.

The position of the teachers has been improved by the approval in 1946 of the granting of assistance towards housing. New and much improved salary scales have now been approved. The British Honduras Teachers' Federation, which was organized in 1939 with constituent associations in all the districts, holds an annual conference and makes recommendations to the Board of Education from time to time.

A revised primary school curriculum was issued in 1945. In its preparation the recommendation of the West India Royal Commission that curricula should be less bookish and more in keeping with the everyday life of the people, was borne in mind. The Board of Education Rules, which are the code of primary education, were revised in 1946; the revision of the Education Ordinance is under consideration.

A Commission appointed to inquire into the state of secondary education reported in July 1947. It recommended the establishment of a "practical" school, and the payment of grant in aid to the secondary schools. In the same month the Educational Adviser to the Comptroller reported on secondary education; the main recommendation was for the establishment of a technical school. Secondary education is carried on in five church schools, without grant-in-aid from Government.

The British Council supplies periodicals to certain schools, primary and secondary. It has also donated books to the Jubilee Library, Belize, to form the nucleus of a Teachers' Reference Library.

Education has benefited from Colonial Development and Welfare schemes under which grants have been approved for the free supply of text-books, stationery and equipment to schools, towards the rehabilitation of some twenty-eight school buildings damaged or destroyed by hurricane in 1942 and towards the holding of annual teachers' vacation courses during the past three years.

The Credit Union Movement continues to grow in strength.

The average enrolment of the recognized primary schools has risen from 9,773 in 1939 to 10,426 in 1947, while the average attendance has risen from 7,773 to 8,671. The average enrolment in the secondary schools is about 589.

The total provision from the revenue of the Colony, excluding War Bonus, was \$93,349 (£19,208) in 1939 and \$149,845 (£37,183) in 1947. The actual expenditure on education from revenue of the Colony was \$201,165 (£49,917).

HEALTH

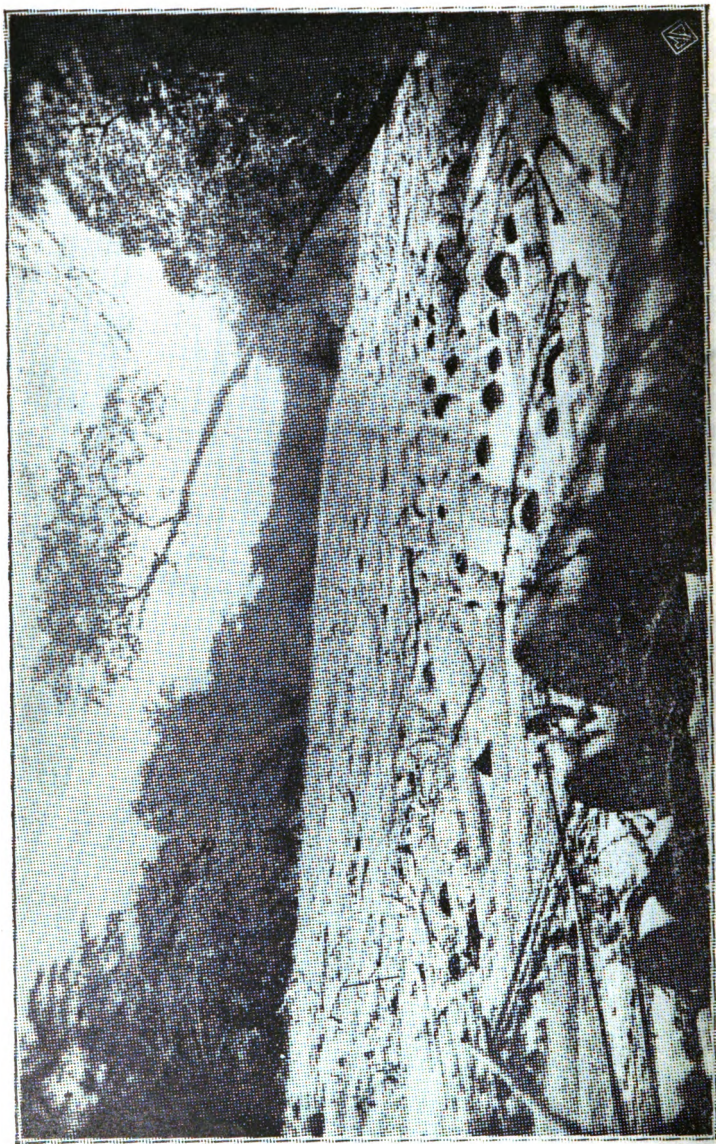
The analysis of the mortality rate is done by the Registrar-General. The figures are not available.

Malaria

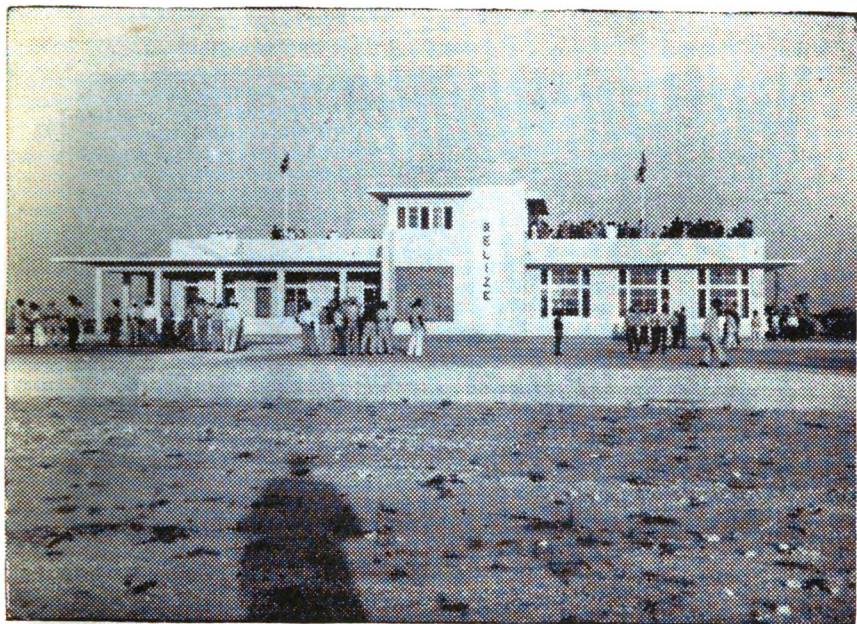
This disease still continues to hold first place in the causes of morbidity. 1010 cases were treated in the various hospitals throughout the colony, representing 20 % of the total hospital admissions.



Felling a giant mahogany



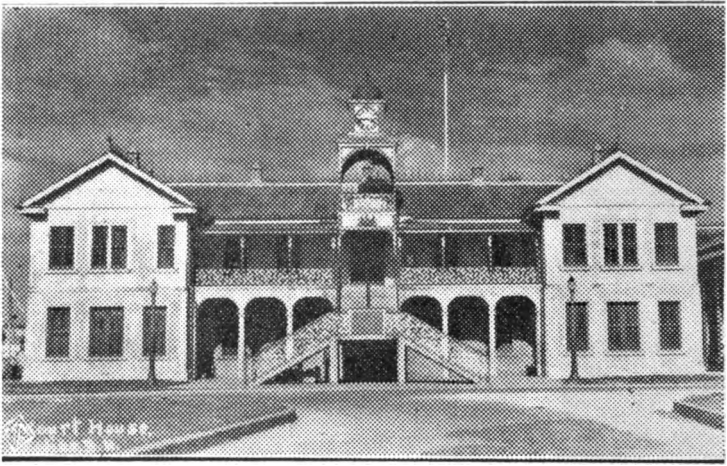
Mahogany logs in boom—Belize River



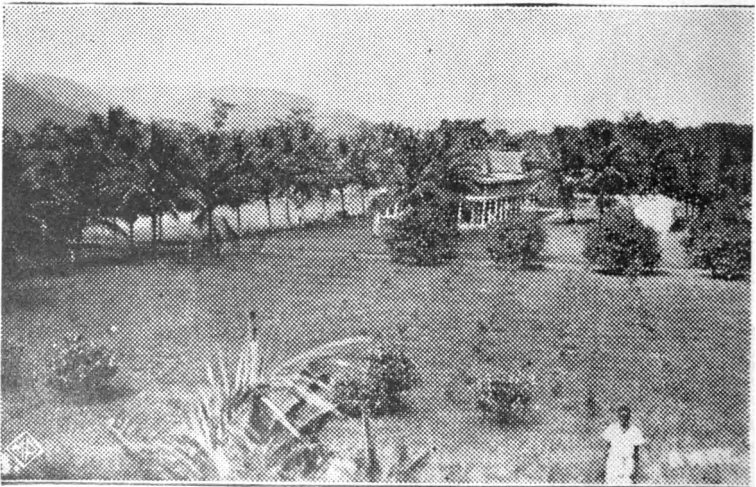
The Airport—Belize



Sergeant's Caye



The Court House—Belize



Stann Creek Valley

The Indian villages of San Pedro, Columbia and San Antonio were subjected to an intensive programme of Malaria control involving the use of the newer synthetic antimalarial drugs and residual spraying of huts with D.D.T. A preliminary survey of the splenic indices in December 1946 showed an index of 33-1.3 % in San Antonio and 54 % in San Pedro Columbia. In December 1947 the indices were 27 and 49 % respectively. The beneficial effects of these measures, however, are reflected with greater fidelity in the vital statistics of these villages than in the splenic indices, as shown below in the following table:—

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

	San Antonio			San Pedro Columbia		
	Births	Deaths	Balance	Births	Deaths	Balance
1945	38	66	28	12	30	18
1946	24	36	12	18	30	12
1947	71	39	42	19	20	1

The complete reversal of the statistical trend in the population of these two villages bears eloquent testimony not only to the role played by Malaria in inhibiting the natural increase of the Indian population, but also to the effectiveness of simple and comparatively inexpensive antimalarial measures intensively and consistently applied.

Typhoid Fever

61 cases were reported. This is the highest incidence of the disease in any year so far.

Tuberculosis

74 cases were notified. The mortality from this disease maintains a fairly constant ratio (1:2) to the reported cases. This is probably due to the fact that many tuberculous cases retire to rural districts, where their deaths are not certified by medical practitioners.

Venereal Diseases

There were 6,471 attendances at the Venereal Diseases Clinic of the Belize Hospital. The Laboratory examined 2,943 bloods by the Kahn and Hinton reactions for Syphilis; 800 were positive.

There has been a significant decline in the incidence of the late complications of Gonorrhoea, which formerly contributed a large share to the surgical emergencies of the Hospital.

Medical Staff

The establishment consists of a Senior Medical Officer, eight Medical Officers, a Matron, and a Nursing Sister. Other hospital staff consists of a Head Dispenser with two qualified assistants, and three apprentices, and two labor-

atory technicians. The nursing staff consists of thirteen staff nurses, and sixty-nine nurses including nurses in training. The Health Staff includes eleven sanitary inspectors, an Inspector of Midwives, six rural nurses and four District Nurses.

Hospitals

There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each district, with a total of 162 beds, twenty-two of which are in the maternity wards. The fees range from twenty-five cents a day for fourth-class patients to \$3.00 a day for the first-class, but no charge is made for the poor and indigent. Admissions to the Belize Hospital during 1946 numbered 2,658, and to District Hospitals 2,320. The Out-patients Department of Belize Hospital recorded 3,616 attendances including those who attended as ambulatory cases of illness, and also the various clinics including the Dental Clinic, casualty dressing and minor operations.

Sanitary Organization

Sanitary Inspectors are in charge of the scavenging of the City; they are responsible for the inspection of all receptacles for the collection of water and for the rigid enforcement of the by-laws governing bakeries, restaurants, hotels and slaughter houses. Each year for the past four years, a Sanitary Inspector has been sent to the Hygiene Institute, Kingston, Jamaica, for training.

The sea and the canals which run through the town of Belize provide the only means for a majority of the householders to dispose of their night soil. Disagreeable and unsightly as it may seem, there can be little doubt that it is the best expedient which could be adopted. Methods of disposal of night soil in the country villages are faulty.

HOUSING

In Belize, the population live in houses constructed of timber with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often swampy and flooded. The work of filling in plots with pipeshank from the sea bed is constantly being undertaken by private individuals and the City Council, while reclamation schemes have, from time to time, been undertaken by the Government. It is not usual to find any ground-floor rooms used for sleeping; their use is normally confined to storage, washing, or for kitchen purposes. Only a small number of the population live in houses which they own.

No improvement has been effected in the housing situation in Belize.

The Central Authority has produced a housing scheme which provides for the complete development of an area at the Newtown Barracks comprising 50 building lots, and for the erection of 14 blocks—each containing four dwellings.

Each dwelling contains the following accommodation:—

Living Room	120 sq. ft.
Bedroom I	112 „ „
Bedroom II	80 „ „

Kitchen	.. .. .	64 sq. ft.
Ablution	(4 ft. 6 ins. x 6 ft. 8 ins.)	
Veranda	(4 ,, 6 ,, x 10 ,, 4 ,,)	
Pit Latrine.		

SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year 1947 the post of Social Welfare Officer was vacant until the 1st September when Mr. John Thomas was appointed Co-operative and Social Welfare Officer and plans were made for the re-organisation of the Department and application made to the Secretary of State for supplementary grant under Colonial Development and Welfare to continue for another three years.

(a) Through voluntary efforts, Village Councils have been formed at Gales Point, Manatee and at Placentia. Although these have no official status they are assuming an important role in their communities and many improvements have been wrought in both areas through their efforts. This development is of note as they are the nucleus for a wider form of representative local government.

Credit Unions continue to play their part in providing credit for the poorer class especially in the urban areas. During the year under review an Ordinance to regulate Credit Unions was passed by the Legislative Council and a Registrar of Credit Unions appointed.

The Fisherman's Co-operative at Barranco and the Santana Farmers Federation and Co-op store are serving the needs of the members. Several other rival groups are organising themselves with the ultimate aim of becoming a co-operative society.

Handcraft continue to make strides in the Prison, the Poor House and the Pomona Industrial School.

(b) The only form of public assistance available is through the Outdoor Relief Committee, there being no Old Age Pension law. Relief to the aged and destitute is given by weekly allowances, provided from Government funds.

During the year, some 783 persons of whom 583 were resident in Belize received relief amounting to \$29,996.93, not including \$910.20 which was spent to provide an extra treat at Christmas. The almshouse accommodated an average of 58 persons during the year under review, while the Gann House which is a night shelter for homeless men operated by the Salvation Army accommodated 5811 men during the year an average of 494 per month. The upkeep of this institution being met by a grant from Government of \$720 and \$192.79 from the Public Assistance Board and Lodgers fee of \$197.10. Sleeping accommodation is free but a charge of two cents is made for tea in the morning.

The entirely destitute are admitted to the Poor House. The chief Probation Officer is a Salvation Officer for the town of Belize. In the districts there are also persons appointed as members of Probation Committee who take the place of the Officer. The Pomona Industrial School was removed from Stann Creek during the year to a site at the Airport and renamed the Boys

Training School. This is the only institution in the Colony for juvenile delinquents.

Juvenile delinquency is still on the increase. During the year under review, 177 cases were brought before the courts. More than 90% of these offenders were males. There are no children's Courts but the Magistrate Courts are cleared during the hearing of juvenile cases.

The Boys Training School which is the only institution for Juveniles and is managed by the Salvation Army had an average of 57 boys during the year—thirteen of these were admitted after conviction of the courts. The following trades, Agriculture, Carpentry, Tailoring and Handicraft are taught. Recreation includes cricket, football and boxing. When the boys are released from the institution every effort is made to place the boys in suitable employment.

Chapter VIII: Legislation

Credit Unions

This legislation provides the legal frame-work for the healthy development and maintenance of Credit Unions of which there are a few in the Colony. The Ordinance follows closely the Credit Union Act of the Province of Saskatchewan in the Dominion of Canada.

Diplomatic Privileges

Ordinance No. 11 of 1947 is based on the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Act, 1944, (Imperial) as amended in 1946. It makes provision as to the immunities, privileges and capacities of International Organisations of which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Foreign Governments are members.

The measure is necessary in consequence of a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, first, that provision should be made as to the immunities, privileges and facilities to be enjoyed by the International Court of Justice set up under the Charter of the United Nations and, secondly, that negotiations should be opened with a view to the unification of the immunities and privileges enjoyed by the United Nations and certain other International Organisations.

Income Tax

(i) Ordinance No. 10 of 1947 empowers the Governor in Council to enter into an arrangement with any territory outside the Colony with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to income tax and any tax of a similar character imposed by the laws of that territory. The measure also contains detailed rules for allowance of tax credits against income tax; provision for the deduction of tax from dividends of Colonial Companies and for the taxation of foreign income on an 'arising' basis.

(ii) Ordinance No. 21 of 1947 further amends the Income tax law by increasing the deductions allowable in computing the chargeable income of an individual; making provision for the payment of the tax by instalments

and providing that as from the year of assessment 1948 the tax upon the chargeable income of every person other than a company shall be charged at the following rates:—

on the first \$500 chargeable income 5 per centum (with minimum of 50 cents)

on the next	\$500	\$1,000	6 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$1,500	8 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$2,000	10 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$2,500	12½ per centum
on the next	\$500	\$3,000	15 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$3,500	17½ per centum
on the next	\$500	\$4,000	20 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$4,500	20 per centum
on the next	\$500	\$5,000	25 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$6,000	25 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$7,000	25 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$8,000	25 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$9,000	25 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$10,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$11,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$12,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$13,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$14,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$15,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$16,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$17,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$18,000	30 per centum
on the next	\$1,000	\$19,000	30 per centum
on the remainder			35 per centum

(2) in addition to the income tax charged in subsection (1) of this section there shall be charged levied and paid for the year of assessment 1948 and for each year thereafter as additional duty on income (in this Ordinance referred to as a surtax) in respect of the excess over ten thousand dollars of chargeable income at the following rates:—

on the first	\$5,000	10 per centum
on the next	\$5,000	15 per centum
on the remainder		20 per centum

Rent Restriction

Ordinance No. 22 of 1947 contains provisions for the control of rents charged in respect of dwelling-houses in the Colony by reference to a 'standard rent'; for preventing the eviction of tenants who are prepared to pay an agreed rent, not exceeding the maximum permitted rent, unless there are special circumstances justifying eviction and for the establishment of Rent Assessment Boards in the Colony with power to determine the rental payable in respect of dwelling-houses. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from the decision of any Board.

Trade Unions

(i) Ordinance No. 5 of 1947 repeals section 31 (1) of the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, (dealing with the prevention of intimidation) and the definitions of "injury" and "intimidation" thereby bringing the local Trade Unions law, in this respect, into conformity with the law in the United Kingdom as it now stands following the repeal of the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act, 1927, (17 & 18 Geo. 5 c. 22).

(ii) Ordinance No. 20 of 1947 repeals section 38 of the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, dealing with contributions of members of Trade Unions to the political funds and prescribing that a trade union member shall not be asked to contribute to that fund before the member first expresses his willingness in writing to do so. It replaces the said section by a 'contracting out' provision whereby the member of a trade union would be exempted from contributing to the political fund of the union on his giving notice in writing of his objection so to contribute. This new provision conforms with the law in the United Kingdom following the repeal of the Act mentioned in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

Town and Country Planning

Ordinance No. 6 of 1947 makes provision for the orderly and progressive development of land, towns and other areas throughout the Colony and to preserve and improve the amenities thereof. It also provides that the Central Authority established under the Slum Clearance Ordinance shall be charged with the preparation and the adoption of schemes relating to the said matters.

Land Acquisition

Ordinance No. 7 of 1947 authorises the acquisition of land for public purposes, such as, for the orderly and progressive development of land, towns and other areas whether urban or rural, to preserve and improve the amenities thereof, housing and other matters connected therewith. It contains provision to facilitate, with as little delay as possible, the acquisition of such land as may be required for the said purposes; and provides that the compensation to be paid for the said land is to be determined by a Board of Assessment, whose decision shall be final. The Board shall consist of the Chief Justice, who shall be chairman, and two other members one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor and the other nominated by the owner of the land. Claims for compensation not exceeding five hundred dollars shall be determined by a District Court and any person aggrieved by such award may appeal to the Supreme Court.

Slum Clearance and Housing

Ordinance No. 8 of 1947 makes provision for slum clearance and generally for the improvement of living conditions for family life. It establishes a Central Authority consisting of eight persons of whom three shall be representatives of the Public Health, Public Works and Survey Departments, respectively and three nominated on the recommendations of the Legislative Council. It will be the duty of this body to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.

Chapter IX: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament 'in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law' passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed 'District Courts') are established in each of the five magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who is *ex-officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding \$100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a Magistrate, District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of Magistrates and District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The number of civil suits issued in the District Court (Civil Jurisdiction) was 405 and, in addition, there were 9 claims for compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1942. A total of \$2,500.00 was awarded to the dependants of the deceased workmen in 2 of the claims, and a total sum of \$2,085.35 was awarded in the remaining 7 claims for partial incapacity.

The total number of criminal and quasi-criminal cases dealt with in the Summary Courts was 1,751 in Belize and 852 in the out-districts, classified as follows:

	Belize	Districts
Homicide	6	2
Offences against the person	93	86
Offences against property	251	65
Malicious injury to Property	4	1
Praedial larceny	7	5
Other crimes	10	27
Offences under Labour Laws	5	4
Offences against Laws relating to Revenue, Municipal Road and Social Economy ..	261	257
Petty offences	1,114	405
	<hr/> 1,751	<hr/> 852

POLICE

Composition

In 1947 the British Honduras Police Force consisted of 1 Superintendent, 2 Assistant Superintendents and 193 other ranks. Of this amount 174 were employed on regular police duties and 22 on immigration work. Of the 196 members of the Force, 168 were born in British Honduras. The Force has its Headquarters in Belize and 120 men are employed at Headquarters. The remaining members of the Force are split up manning 5 District Head Stations and 20 Sub-stations, all of the latter having only one man in each. Police buildings generally are old and antiquated, but are gradually being replaced. In many districts, the Police, besides their normal duties, operate the local telephone system and Post Office and carry out the duties of school officers. This is particularly true in the case of the sub-stations. On account of the scattered positions of the Police Stations, a great deal of patrol work is done by single men on foot, on horseback and by dorey. The Police has 22 horses thinly distributed throughout the colony and many of the stations have either a paddling or sailing dorey attached to them, but transportation, especially in the case of the District Stations and Sub-stations, is very difficult.

Prevention and Suppression of Crime

Lectures and parades are regularly taken by the officers and N.C.Os. of the Force, but the lack of a proper training depot is keenly felt. Two officers were given a course of training in England during the year. One was a General Police Course and the other a course in Police Photography and Fingerprinting. Fingerprinting apparatus has been ordered and once all the materials have been received, instruction in the art of finger-printing will be given and this means of crime detection will be introduced into the Force. The Force has a Prisoner's van, a Police motor car, a Station Waggon and 6 motorcycles. District Head Stations are supplied with a motorcycle in such cases where they have roads in their particular area and the motorcycles are issued principally for traffic control and traffic checks. Due to the increased number of traffic and the opening of the Belize-Cayo Road, the volume of this work has been increasing steadily. The Force has two motor launches which are used both in the rivers and on the sea. These are exceedingly useful in the prevention and suppression of crime and as a means of communicating with those portions of the colony which are not connected to Belize by road. Mounted patrols in the districts do useful work and are particularly useful in getting about to the various villages in which there is no Police Station.

Prevalence of Crime

There was an increase in crime generally over the same period for 1946 and these are as follows:

There were 4 cases of murder, 2 of attempted murder and 2 of manslaughter; grievous harm to the person 166 cases, an increase of 37. Dangerous drugs 7, showed a slight decrease of 1. Praedial larceny with 12 cases for the year showed a decrease of 7, but stealing with a figure of 238 involving 265 persons increased by 40. Gambling (local lotteries) increased from 76 to 145 involving 153 persons. House-breaking 20, showed an increase of 3, but burglary 4, showed a decrease of 9. Traffic offences increased by 82 to a fig-

ure of 262 cases for the year. This is due principally to the increased amount of vehicles on the road and the opening of the road to the western border. Minor offences jumped from 705 to 920 involving 1,060 persons with an increase of 215 over the previous year's figures. A total of 2,190 cases were brought before the Courts by the Police involving 2,418 persons. Of this amount 2,125 persons were convicted, 155 were acquitted, nolle prosequi in 12 cases was entered and 126 were otherwise dealt with. The 22 men doing immigration work checked in 21,568 passengers into the colony and checked out 19,719 departing passengers. 53 persons were prosecuted on charges against the Immigration Laws. 1,012 aircraft arrived in the colony and 908 sea vessels during the same period.

PRISONS

The authorized staff of the Prison Department comprises a Superintendent, a Clerk & Storekeeper, a Senior Warder, a Matron and sixteen warders.

Of the six prisons in the Colony, the prison at Belize is the principal. It is used to accommodate all prisoners sentenced for periods over three months. It consists of seventy-eight cells with a female wing of six cells. The prisons in the out-districts are situated in the Towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Punta Gorda and El Cayo. These prisons are staffed by the police personnel; the senior non-commissioned officer being the keeper of prison. District prisons are under the control of the District Commissioner subject to the Superintendent of Prisons.

The figure of 567 persons received into the prisons represents an increase of 231 over the previous year.

Although there is insufficient accommodation to secure separation of juvenile offenders, they are kept apart (as much as accommodation will permit) from old offenders Boys under sixteen years of age, who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona Stann Creek. This school was transferred in the latter part of the year to the Airport Camp at Belize. A part time Probation Officer has been appointed under the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance 1934 and the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932.

At the Principal Prison, the trades of Carpentry, Tailoring, Mattress-making, Baking, Shoe-making, Book-binding, Tin-smithing and Fibre-craft weaving are taught.

The daily average number of prisoners set to work was sixty-four and their hours or labour averaged eight. Certain gangs of prisoners are employed outside the Prison Compound, cutting grass and growth around government buildings and other government property.

Female prisoners are employed on fibre-beating, washing and mending prisoners' clothes and the production of coconut oil.

Chapter X: Public Utilities

Public utilities in the Colony are confined to the provision of electricity

and telephones. The chief electric power station is operated by the Government in Belize but the small Town Board of Corozal provides electric lighting for its own inhabitants.

The electrical supply system in Belize is three wire direct current, 220 and 110 volts, using overhead lines on poles provided from local pine. Current is supplied by three direct-connected, Diesel-driven generating sets of British manufacture, using rotary balances for the mid-wire. Fuel oil costs twenty-three cents and lubricating oil eighty cents for each imperial gallon; the total cost of oil in 1947 was \$33,081.

Charges for electric current are:

- (a) for lighting:
 - first 50 kw. 20 cents per kw.
 - over 50 kw. 15 cents per kw.
- (b) for domestic power:
 - 8 cents per kw.
- (c) for industrial power:
 - 3 cents to 7 cents per kw.

Consumers number over 2,500.

Ice is manufactured by the Electrical Department by a five-ton plant of British make and to supply the demand for ice it has been necessary also to operate hired plant of smaller capacity for the past few years. Approximate sales of ice during 1947 were 3,905,000 lb. at a rate of half a cent per lb.

TELEPHONES

The telephones are of the magneto type of American manufacture. Overhead cables use the poles provided for the electric wires; the airport, which is ten miles from Belize, is connected by means of a metallic circuit. In Belize there are four 150-line manual switchboards but the towns in the districts have smaller equipment. The trunk lines are copperweld single conductors using ground return. They are:

Belize—Maskall, Orange Walk, Corozal, Consejo	..	109	miles
Belize—Roaring Creek, Cayo, Benque Viejo	.. ..	95	„
Belize—Stann Creek, Sittee, Monkey River	.. ..	90	„
Belize—Hill Bank (Belize Estate & Produce Co. Ltd.)		45	„

There are 451 telephones connected to the Belize Exchange and 114 telephones on the trunk lines.

Charges for telephones are:

Business	desk	\$12.00	each quarter
	wall	\$11.50	„ „
Private	desk	\$ 7.00	„ „
	wall	\$ 6.50	„ „
Out-district telephones		\$ 7.50	„ „

Charges are:

- (a) for inland telegrams: two cents a word with a minimum charge of thirty cents.
- (b) for trunk calls: forty cents for each five-minute period.

Chapter XI: Communications

Up to a decade ago, almost the only means of communication in the Colony were the sea, the rivers and a number of bush trails. It is inevitable that these means will continue to play an important part in the life of the Colony; they must be used for the transportation of supplies to the settlements on the banks of the rivers, for no road scheme could contemplate linking up all the scattered communities.

RIVERS

The Belize River, which has always been the most important for logging purposes, is navigable, almost to the frontier with Guatemala, by doreys and other light craft for the greater part of the year, but, at all times, considerable ingenuity must be exercised to negotiate the numerous 'runs'. Specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, with a 'tunnel' protection for the propeller, have for 20 to 30 years plied up and down the 120 miles of river between Belize and the town of Cayo with supplies, through all but the driest months.

THE SEA

Coastal villages in Southern Districts are served by a twice-weekly sailing from Belize of a small motor vessel, which, once a week also connects with the port of Puerto Barrios in Guatemala to deliver and collect much of the surface foreign mails of the Colony. Regular services are similarly maintained to the Northern District settlements. Ships of the United Fruit Co. transport provisions and merchandise every two or three weeks from New Orleans but the passenger service which operated before the war has not, as yet, been resumed. Small schooners provide a regular weekly service between Belize and the Florida port of Tampa. Ships from the United Kingdom have begun to call at six-week intervals, and there were frequent, but irregular sailings between Jamaica and the Colony. The ships entering the Colony in 1947 numbered 935 with a tonnage of 189,905 compared with 1071 in 1946 with a tonnage of 138,202.

ROADS

Road-making is a difficult and costly process in most areas; in coastal districts swamps are the chief obstacle; inland, dense undergrowth is a difficulty. Until roads reach the hills of the interior, where quarries can be opened, stone is not easily obtained.

Prior to 1935, there were only thirty-five miles of 'all-weather' roads in the Colony which were considered at that date to be suitable for motor traffic. Today there are 226 miles of main roads (including the recently completed Belize to Cayo road) and 39 miles of feeder roads, all suitable for motor traffic. In addition there are approximately 48 miles of cart roads, some of which can be used by motor cars during the dry season, and 154 miles of government maintained bush trails.

Colonial Development and Welfare projects in hand during the year included the construction of the Belize-Cayo Road, the new Haulover Bridge and a road connecting Belize to Hector Creek at mile 26 on the Belize-Cayo Road, a distance of 14 miles.

Approximately 14 miles of all-weather road was completed between Cayo and Belize to link up these two towns and seven miles of road was metalled. A temporary pontoon bridge was constructed across the Belize River at Cayo and the whole route is now being used regularly by motor traffic.

The Haulover Bridge was completed and opened to traffic in September.

The construction of the road from Belize to Hector Creek, which reduces the distance to Cayo by twelve miles, was commenced in September. An embankment of approximately a mile in length through bad mangrove swamp was built by the suction dredger and approximately two miles of stone base was laid through pine ridge.

COMMUNICATIONS

The road from Corozal to Santa Elena on the Mexican Border at the Rio Hondo, a distance of $8\frac{1}{4}$ miles, was completed; extensive repairs to the road through the four miles of mangrove swamp between Belize and the Haulover Bridge were carried out.

Cars in the Colony numbered 142, commercial vehicles 244, and bicycles 2,200.

AIR SERVICES

The Airport for the Colony was constructed some ten miles to the west of Belize in 1943 and 1944, and the cost was met from a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant. The airfield is officially named 'Stanley Field' to mark the association of Colonel Oliver Stanley, who as Secretary of State for the Colonies 'opened' the Terminal Building in January, 1945. There are two other airfields, neither of which is in regular use. Internal services were operated from June to December by the principal operating company when the service was discontinued, the number of movements were 136.

Transportes Aereos Centro Americanos (TACA) make daily stops at the Belize Airport to pick up mail and passengers and to refuel; the north-bound aircraft passing to Havana, Cuba, and on to Miami, Florida; the southbound aeroplane flying to Guatemala and other Central American republics. British International Airlines maintain a weekly service from Belize to Kingston, Jamaica.

A Mexican aircraft company, Transportes Aereos Mexicanos, S. A. (TAMSA) operates a passenger and mail service between Belize, Quintana Roo and Merida from whence a connecting plane to New Orleans is available.

Movements of International aircraft to and from Belize numbered 2,602.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There are 30 post offices in the Colony. In 1947, the number of articles

dealt with was 935,374. The value of internal money and postal order business amounted to \$79,545, and to \$162,823 for external transactions.

Telephone offices, which also transact telegraph business, number 72. The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Chetumal, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with other countries.

There is a wireless station in Belize for the transaction daily of radio-telegraph business with stations in other countries—Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City, and New Orleans. Transmitting and receiving equipment is also installed at the Belize Airport, but this is normally confined to the use of Airline Companies. Excluding messages relating to the conduct of the service, weather reports, and press messages, 12,273 radio telegrams were transmitted and 13,235 were received in 1947.

Items of news interest and forecast for the Western Caribbean are broadcast daily at 12.30 p.m. from the Belize Wireless Station, ZIK2, on a wavelength of 28.31 metres. Storm and hurricane warnings are broadcast during the hurricane season from June to November.

The charges on radiograms to Great Britain, Eire, British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Canada, Newfoundland and to all points in the United States of America are as follows:

Ordinary (Full Rate)	..	..	per word	20 cents	
Code (C D E)	..	..	..	12 cents	
Deferred (L C)	..	..	..	10 cents	
Night Letter (N L T)	..	..	..	6½ cents	Minimum
					25 words
(G L T)	..	..	..	6½ cents	Minimum
					12 words
Press U.K. (Press)	..	..	..	2 cents	
U.S.A. (Press)	..	..	..	6½ cents	

PUBLIC WORKS

Public works, other than roads, completed during the year, included the construction of quarters for the Forest Ranger at Punta Gorda, Quarters for two clerks in Cayo and New Nurses' Hostel at the Belize Hospital.

Chapter XII: Lands and Survey

Twenty sheets of the aerial survey of approximately 5,000 sq. miles of the northern section of the Colony were traced from the draft plans. These were completed by April 1947 and the Directorate of Colonial Surveys arranged to have these sheets printed in one colour as a provisional edition on a scale of 1/50,000. The original tracings were on a scale of 1/40,000. Later when a field check has been made fair drawings will be made and the sheets printed in colour.

It is hoped that the southern 3,000 sq. miles of the Colony will be aerial surveyed in the near future.

A considerable number of cadastral surveys were made and the layout of land known as TOPCO into 10—20 acre parcels and four village sites were continued.

Trails from Roaring Creek on the Belize River to Middlesex in the Stann Creek Valley were opened for the Settlement Commission.

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

British Honduras, 5,700 miles from the United Kingdom and 600 miles west of its better-known sister colony of Jamaica, lies on the mainland of Central America facing eastwards across the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 8,598 square miles, it is approximately the same size as Wales, and nearly twice the size of Jamaica. The Colony lies between North latitudes of $18^{\circ} 29' 5''$ and $15^{\circ} 53' 55''$ and between West longitudes of $89^{\circ} 9' 22''$ and $88^{\circ} 10'$. To the North and North-west, the frontier with Mexico is formed by the River Hondo. The frontier with the only other neighbouring republic, Guatemala, is, in the south, the River Sarstoon from the Gracias a Dios Falls to the sea, while a line drawn from these falls to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River and thence due North to the Mexican frontier on the Hondo forms the western boundary. The greatest length of the Colony from North to South is about 174 miles with a greatest width from East to West of approximately 68 miles. The coast of British Honduras is very well sheltered from the rough seas of the Caribbean by an almost continuous line of coral reefs and 'cays' lying at distances of from ten to forty miles from the mainland. The harbour of Belize is almost surrounded by sheltering reefs—a factor which has done much to promote the growth of the port as the most important in the Colony. North of Belize, coastal waters are unusually shallow with a general depth of no more than six feet. At Commerce Bight, three miles south of the town of Stann Creek, the deepest water in the Colony is found and until the pier was destroyed by a severe storm in 1941, medium sized, ocean going, vessels were able to berth alongside. For the most part, coastal lands are low and swampy and the northern part of the Colony is flat, large areas of land rising very little above sea level.

In the area south of Belize, there is a central mountain massif of a general elevation of 2,000—3,000 feet above sea level, comprising on the east, the Maya Mountain Range, and on the west, an area of pine ridge over 120 square miles in extent. The Maya Mountains, which include the Cockscomb Spur, possessing a peak of over 3,700 feet, are by no means fully explored, and difficulties of terrain are such as to make expeditions for detailed survey very costly.

The pine ridge provides some of the best scenery in the Colony, and the large tracts of open space suggest attractions for the tourist. Remoteness from rivers and roads would render the extraction of the pine an uneconomic proposition.

Numerous rivers, not all of which are easily navigable by any kind of craft, provided until recent times almost the only means of communication with the interior: the most important, the Belize River, can be negotiated in all but the very dry months by specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, for 120 miles upstream. No thorough survey of the soil of the Colo-

ny has yet been made but it is believed that there are several uncultivated areas where profitable agriculture could be carried on, and there are similar hopes that a geological survey would not be found unproductive.

CLIMATE

In its climate, British Honduras is certainly favoured. Trade winds, blowing from the sea over a great part of the year, keep temperatures down, in coastal areas, to a level below that of such cities as New York and Washington in the summer months. Even in the hotter months of May to October the shade temperatures do not go over 96° . Inland, in the Western District, day temperatures may exceed 100° but cooler nights are experienced. During cold spells, which may occur between November and February, the temperature may go down in Belize to 50° though the mean for this period is nearer 70° .

Rainfall shows some sharp annual variations but the mean over the last five years is sixty-two inches in Belize, which is also typical of what would be regarded as a normal year. Average rainfall in the North is no more than about sixty inches while in the Southern District the yearly average is nearer 200 inches.

The climate of the Colony, which in the cooler months is particularly delightful, is quite suitable for people used to temperate zones and little, if any, impairment to health is suffered from prolonged residence. The high 3,000 feet plateau of the mountain pine ridge is quite suitable as a hill station, a project which may be realized when the major road programme is accomplished.

Chapter II: History of British Honduras

The incompleteness and the paucity of many of the records from which the history of British Honduras has to be gathered make research fascinating, but, at times, rather exasperating. The humidity of the climate has not favoured the storage of documents, but such as remain provide stories with a Ballantyne flavour of adventure.

Of the early settlement of the Colony by Maya Indians, much remains to be told; but there is ample evidence of considerable Mayan settlements all over the Colony which indicate that a population much greater than that existing at present was supported, though on a much lower standard. For the archaeologist, there is wealth of material to be unearthed.

Here, we are concerned with the history of the Colony following the discoveries in the Western Hemisphere in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Columbus is thought to have sailed down the coast in 1502, when he set out from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies.

The first Britons to set foot in the country are believed to have sailed from Jamaica about 1638. Finding abundant supplies of logwood, then much in demand for the manufacture of dyes in Europe, they began a settle-

ment which was maintained with fluctuating fortunes through 150 years of struggle and strife with the Spanish. It appeared that friendly relations and treaties between Britain and Spain made no difference to the local struggle and it was not until 1798 that an end to the skirmishes could be written.

By 1670 when Spain made a treaty ceding to Britain all lands in the West Indies and in any part of America held by the British, the settlement, near the mouth of the Belize River and at St. George's Cay, an island some ten miles east of the river mouth, included 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. About this time, the prosperity of the settlement was brought to the notice of King Charles II by a report of the Governor of Jamaica that it had 'increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies'.

An early reference to slaves was included in a report of an attack by the Spanish some distance inland at Labouring Creek in 1754, when it was said that, principally by their efforts, the raiders were repulsed. In 1779, the Spanish seem to have had some success when they captured and carried away a great many of the settlers at St. George's Cay. Subsequently, after suffering ill-treatment in Mexico and Cuba, the captives were allowed to return. A further development occurred in 1786, when, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain gave up her claims to the Mosquito Coast in return for Spanish recognition of the existing settlement in British Honduras, but this arrangement seems either not to have been brought to the notice of, or to have been disregarded by, the Spanish in the Caribbean area, as the attacks continued. In their final effort in 1798, they appear to have employed larger forces than ever before and little attention seems to have been given to achieving surprise for the local settlers had time for a number of parleys and to gather together their forces inferior in point of fighting strength. The action at St. George's Cay was decisive and final and, today, the anniversary is honoured by a public holiday accompanied by patriotic celebrations.

Events in Mexico from 1848 to 1867 had their repercussions in British Honduras, for the rebellion of the Indians of Yucatan in 1849 caused many Spaniards to settle in the northern part of the Colony. When in 1867 Mexico finally overthrew the Spanish administration, Indians made repeated raids into the Colony until a garrison of Imperial Troops finally made such incursions unremunerative.

From the very first beginnings of the settlement, until recent times, a greater measure of freedom to manage their own affairs appears to have been accorded to the people of British Honduras than was given to the settlers in other colonies. Until 1786, persons were appointed at an annual public meeting to act as Magistrates, on whom the responsibility of discharging executive and judicial functions devolved.

The King in 1765 gave a 'constitution to the people' founded on their ancient customs, the most important of which were legislating by public meetings and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people. Admiral Sir William Burnaby, accompanied by Captain Cook, was sent to the Colony to codify the laws and customs and to arrange for the inhabitants of the Colony to be put into full possession of their lands and associated rights.

Following the declaration of the settlement as a Colony in 1862, a Lieutenant-Governor, subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica, was appointed, and in 1870, he became the President of a newly constituted Legislative Assembly, the composition of which included five official, and not less than four unofficial members.

Independence of Jamaica came in 1884 with the appointment of a Governor and a Commander-in-Chief.

The economic disaster, following a hurricane which overwhelmed Belize and the adjacent countryside in 1931, necessitated the seeking of the aid of the Imperial Exchequer and the subsequent surrender of the control of finance. As a result, major changes in the constitution were made in 1935 by the passing of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, and, after amendments to this Ordinance in 1938 and 1945, the Legislative Council now consists of the Governor, as President, three official and ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated and six elected from five constituencies. The Governor was given power, in certain circumstances, to assent to any bill which the Council failed to pass.

The main economy of British Honduras has been based, since the first settlement, on her forests. By the time the demand for logwood declined, the mahogany tree had already become a more profitable export and it has remained for a century the principal forest product. Other exports from the forest have centred upon cedar, pine and the sapodilla tree, from which chicle gum is extracted. Coconuts have also been an important export.

With a forest tradition ingrained in him, the average British Honduran has not taken heed of exhortations to settle on the land, and indeed the experiences of some of the settlers have not been encouraging, for most of them have only eked out a meagre living. Bananas were flourishing when the Stann Creek railway project was begun in 1905 to improve transportation, but an imported disease has relegated banana growing to an insignificant position.

The citrus industry in the Stann Creek Valley is now well established and although during the latter half of the war a government subsidy to growers became necessary, due to temporary loss of markets, the original position had been regained toward the end of 1946. A sugar factory, erected in the sugar cane growing area in the northern plain in 1935, has not been productive of a high grade sugar, and it has not supplied, in entirety, the requirements of the Colony. Rum distilleries in the same neighbourhood produce a spirit which has only a local market.

The social development of the peoples of British Honduras has not, on the whole, been characterized by the sudden spurts which appear to have marked progress in other countries; rather, to the casual observer, has it been by almost imperceptible change year by year. The Education Ordinance of 1892 established a Board of Education, with the Governor as Chairman, to promote education, to provide for the administration of schools, and to allot grants in aid from funds voted by the legislature. In 1915 the Governor with the consent of the Board was empowered to declare compulsory school attendance areas. Noteworthy improvements in the standard of teaching recently have followed the provision of better training facilities and stimulation has come from the institution of annual Teachers' Vacation Courses.

Public Health appears to have received its chief impetus in the latter half of the last century, but administrators of the Public Health Ordinances are always somewhat discouraged by the absence of proper water supplies and sewerage systems. An improved water supply scheme for Belize was planned and it is hoped that it will come into operation during 1948.

During the last six years, the policy of sending for training abroad, under grants administered by the Comptroller for Development and Welfare, selected persons for hospital and public health duties has had encouraging results in a higher standard of service and efficiency. A scheme for the provision of meals for needy school children is as yet no more than an ideal.

It was not until 1945 that a Social Welfare Officer was appointed, and he was gravely handicapped by the absence of any voluntary organizations on which he could found the nucleus of a Social Welfare Scheme. There were no handicrafts, no co-operative or marketing unions, and no village community centres; but there were Credit Unions, the first of which was established only a short time before he arrived. With the return from Jamaica of an officer sent for handicraft training, handicrafts were introduced to the main institutions, the Prison, the Mental Hospital and the Industrial School for boys, which has been established in the Stann Creek Valley in 1926. With the resignation of the first Social Welfare Officer, plans are being made to associate Social Welfare with the development of the Colony. A Social Welfare and Development Officer was appointed during the year.

Chapter III: Administration

The administration and government of the Colony devolve upon the Governor and an Executive Council, constituted by Royal Instructions given in 1936 and in 1945, and providing for three *ex-officio* members and of such persons, as the Governor may appoint in accordance with the instructions. At the close of the year, the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney General were the *ex-officio* members and there were five other appointments of whom the Senior Medical Officer was one. Appointments are for a period of three years.

The Legislative Council, in its present form, is constituted by the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance of 1935 together with the amendment Ordinance of 1945; the composition, with the Governor as President, being three *ex-officio* members (only two have been appointed, the Colonial Secretary, who holds the office of Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General) ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions received in 1936 and 1945, and six elected from five constituencies, there being two members for the Belize District.

All questions are decided by a majority of the votes given, the Governor having an original, and also a casting vote, but of the greatest interest to Unofficial Members of the Council is the provision in the 1935 enactment of what are described as the Governor's reserve powers, which, briefly, give him the authority to declare his assent to any bill, resolution or vote, which

he considers necessary in the interests of public order or good government, or to secure detailed control of the finances of the Colony, while financial assistance is being received from His Majesty's Exchequer. In making any such declaration, the Governor is required to inform the Council of his reasons and to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor may refuse to give his assent to any bill passed by the Legislative Council, or he may reserve his assent for the signification of the approval of His Majesty; no law is effective until it has received his assent.

The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice and a Magistrate for the City of Belize. In the out-districts judicial functions are exercised by the District Commissioners. In addition, two or more Justices of the Peace may exercise the judicial functions of a District Commissioner. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice, who is appointed by Letters Patent under the Public Seal of the Colony by the Governor. One of the officers of the Court is the Registrar General, who has power to administer oaths and take solemn declarations, or affirmations in lieu of oaths.

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor by Warrant under his hand and under Public Seal; they may be appointed for the whole Colony, or for a district, or for a portion of a district. Similarly they may be removed by warrant.

Administratively the Colony is divided into five districts, of which the Belize District, containing the capital, has the largest population. The other districts are the Northern with headquarters at Corozal, the Western, whose administrative headquarters are at El Cayo, the Stann Creek District administered from Stann Creek town, and the Toledo District in the South with Punta Gorda as the only important town. The Commissioner for each district, excepting Belize, exercises the prescribed judicial functions and acts, at the same time, as Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector of Customs and District Postmaster. Except in one district the Commissioner is also chairman of the local Town Board.

Town Boards are constituted under the District Town Boards Ordinance of 1938, which gives power to the Governor in Council to add to, or delete from, the list of towns to which the Ordinance applies. Boards may be either wholly nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected: nominated members are appointed by the Governor.

A Town Board is required to meet each quarter and at such other times as required by its rules or when convened by the Chairman, who is appointed either by the Governor or from one of their number as he may direct. It is entrusted with the duty of attending to the good government of the town, and it may establish markets, slaughter-houses, baths and washhouses, may provide for public lighting, the naming and numbering of its streets, and carry on such other duties as the Governor orders by notice in the *Gazette*.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

The standard Imperial Weights and Measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, which places on the Superintendent of Police the duties of inspection of weights and measures at least once in every three months.

The legal standards to be used are:

- (a) for articles sold by weight Imperial troy and avoirdupois
- (b) for capacity (liquids and dry goods) Imperial gallon
- (c) for capacity (goods usually sold by the bushel) Bushel of eight Imperial gallons or 80 pounds avoirdupois
- (d) for extension Standard yard measure of 36 inches.

A copy or model of the standards must be kept in the office of each District Commissioner and inspections are to be made at least once in every three months.

Chapter V: Newspapers and Periodicals

There are two newspapers published in the Colony, the *Daily Clarion*, a small one sheet evening issue and the *Belize Billboard*, a weekly Sunday issue.

For official purposes, the *Government Gazette* is issued weekly and is available to private subscribers on payment of an annual subscription of five dollars.

There are no other regular publications and, in the main, people of British Honduras rely upon the wireless set and certain weekly American publications for their news of the world.

Chapter VI: Bibliography

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Geology of British Honduras. By Leslie H. Ower, D.I.C., F.G.S., F.R.G.S. 1928, Belize, Government Printing Office.

Report on Belize Harbour and some of the Rivers of British Honduras. By G. W. Dodds. 1936, Belize, Government Printing Office.

Remarks on a Passage from the River Belize in the Bay of Honduras to Merida, The Capital of the Province of Yucatan in the Spanish West Indies. By Lt. Cook (London, 1769). Facsimile reprint, 1935 (Tulane University of Louisiana), Wetzell, Printing Inco. Midameres Press, New Orleans, U.S.A.

Late Ceramic Horizons at Benque Viejo, British Honduras. By J. Eric Thompson. With notes on 'Classification of Painted Wares' by Anna O. Shepard. Reprinted from Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publication 528. Washington, 15th December, 1940.

Living Treasure. By Ivan T. Sanderson. Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York, 1941.

Brief Sketch of British Honduras. Revised by A. H. Anderson. 1944, Government Printer, Belize.

LIST OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT

PRINTING OFFICE, BRITISH HONDURAS

\$

1.	Agricultural Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.25
2.	Customs Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
3.	Education Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.25
4.	Forestry Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.25
5.	Labour Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.25
6.	Medical Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.50
7.	Survey Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	.25
8.	Financial Statements	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
9.	Sessional Papers	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
10.	Minutes of the Legislative Council (bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
11.	Ordinances (Bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
12.	„ (Single copies)	..	..	..	..	..	.15
13.	S. R. & Os. (Bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
14.	S. R. & Os. (Single copies)	..	..	..	..	..	.15
15.	Brief Sketch of British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	.25
16.	Table of Distances in British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	.10
17.	Dodd's Report on the Belize Harbour	..	..	..	..	..	.50
18.	Archives of British Honduras (Per volume)	..	..	..	..	..	2.00
	„ „ „ (Set of three volumes)	..	..	..	..	..	5.00
19.	Board of Education Rules	..	..	..	..	..	.15
20.	Post Office Guide	..	..	..	..	..	.25
21.	Report of the Committee of Nutrition on the Colony of British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
22.	Blue Book	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
23.	Customs Tariff—Ordinance 1 of 1935	..	..	..	..	..	.15
24.	Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part I.	..	..	..	..	..	.75
25.	Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part II	..	..	..	..	..	.65

26.	West India Royal Commission Report	..	..	..	..	1.75
27.	„ „ „ Recommendations	..				.10
28.	West India Royal Commission Report—Statement of Actions Taken on Recommendations	..	..	..	..	.50
29.	C. Hummel's Forestry Report	..	..	..	..	1.00
30.	Housing in the West Indies	..	..	..	..	.30
31.	Enquiry into the Educational System of British Honduras	..				1.50
32.	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure	..	..	..	..	1.00
33.	Government Gazette—single copies	..	..	..	..	.15
	subscription per year	..	..	..	..	5.00
34.	Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of British Honduras	..	..	..	..	.25
35.	Cost of Education	..	..	..	..	.10
36.	Social Welfare (a series of nine broadcasts made by the B.B.C.)	..				.10
37.	Report of the Development Planning Committee, 1946	..				1.00

MAPS

1. Cadastral Plan of Belize, 200 feet to 1 inch.
2. Sectional Map of the Colony, 4 miles to 1 inch.
3. Small Scale Map, suitable for reports.

A limited number of maps indicating annual and monthly rainfall, geology, alienation of Crown land, etc., is available.

Printed by the Government Printer.



COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

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British Honduras 1948



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1948.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1948 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).

ANNUAL REPORT ON BRITISH HONDURAS

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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PART I

General Review

It is seldom that British Honduras features in the headlines and leading articles of the world press, but universal interest in the Colony was aroused when the dispute between H. M. Government and the Government of Guatemala over the so-called Belize Question flared up to a crisis early in 1948.

On February 22nd Sir Gerald Hawkesworth, K.C.M.G., M.C., then Governor of British Honduras, received news of the threatening attitude adopted by certain elements in Guatemala against British Honduras. Preparations to defend Belize (the capital) and the Airport by the British Honduras Volunteer Guard and the Police Force were immediately made, and on February 28th H.M.S. Sheffield, flagship of Admiral Sir William Tennant, Commander-in-Chief America and West Indies Station, arrived off Belize. H.M.S. Devonshire, carrying troops of the second Gloucestershire Regiment, followed on the 1st March, and adequate provision for the defence of British Honduras against any armed aggression was completed. (The detachment of regular troops remained throughout the year). These measures were taken solely for the defence of the freedom and rights of the people of British Honduras, who repeatedly and unmistakably declared their determination to remain under the British flag. The Government of Guatemala, however, closed the frontier between the two countries, and made unwarranted allegations that these precautions were aggressive in character.

Throughout this period the people of British Honduras remained calm and undaunted, and numerous Resolutions of Loyalty, of which the following is a typical example, were addressed to the Governor:—

“BE IT RESOLVED that we, the people of British Honduras, in public meeting assembled, recall at this hour that memorable day one hundred and fifty years ago when our forefathers, the Baymen, with the red blood coursing their veins, resolved to defy and did defy and defeat, the men of Spain and made secure to themselves and to their descendants for all time their proud and sacred British heritage.

The same red blood still courses through our veins. Today this same spirit animates our breasts. We are filled with the same resolution with the aid of the Mother Country, to defend to the death, our rights and liberties and to maintain within the British Empire the place of this our blessed country from the Rio Hondo to the Sarstoon.

We desire particularly, on this occasion to express our appreciation of the manner in which the Home Government sent the naval forces to protect our lives and property in consequence of threat of invasion.

We reaffirm our pledge of unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King and pray God that he may long reign over us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted through the proper channel to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be placed at the foot of the Throne."

It was thus that the citizens of British Honduras asserted their loyalty, and their determination to resist, by force if necessary, any foreign aggression. In the event, no attack was launched upon the Colony, and the position in the dispute itself remained unaltered throughout the year. His Majesty's Government repeatedly offered to submit the matter to arbitration by the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the obligations accepted by Great Britain under the Charter of the United Nations; but this offer has never been accepted by Guatemala. The only other event of major interest in connection with the dispute occurred in November when two ships of the Home Fleet (H.M.S. Sirius and H.M.S. Aisne) paid a routine visit to Belize as part of the programme of the Fleet's visit to the West Indies and Caribbean Colonies. This "violation of Guatemalan waters" evoked strong protest from the Government of the Republic, and the Guatemalan Foreign Minister went so far as to allege that the ships had brought armed reinforcements to the Colony. His Majesty's Government immediately denied this false allegation, for not a single man was left in British Honduras by the two vessels.

The frontier remained closed on the Guatemalan side for the remainder of the year.

Legislative Council elections were held during the first part of the year, and the first meeting of the newly elected Council took place on the 29th June. In October the posts of Colonial Secretary and Financial Secretary were separated, and the latter was appointed the third *ex-officio* member of the Legislative Council. Most important of the Ordinances enacted during the year were a Co-operative Societies Ordinance, to provide for the formation, and to regulate the operation of, Co-operative Societies; a Fisheries Ordinance, to consolidate and regulate the law relating to fisheries, and to give power to impose an export duty on fish; a Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance, to extend the provision of the Land Acquisition Ordinance so as to enable approved "promoters" to acquire land compulsorily; and a Marketing Board Ordinance, to provide for the establishment of a Marketing Board.

The event of greatest constitutional importance in 1948 was the appointment, on the 31st January, of a Commission of Inquiry with the following terms of reference:—

FIRST: on the following proposals relating to the political constitution of the Colony, referred to in the summary of discussions held in London in July and August, 1947, between the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and a deputation of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council—

1. That the existing property and income qualifications for registration as a voter (contained in section 6 of Ordinance No. 14 of 1935) be abolished and universal adult suffrage without a literacy test be substituted therefor.

2. That the President of the Legislative Council be someone appointed by the Governor from outside the Council.

3. That there be some increase, up to less than twelve, in the number of the Elected Members of the Legislative Council.

4. That there should be retained in the Legislative Council some Nominated Members for the representation of special interests until such time as the whole population is in a position to take part in elections to the Legislative Council.

5. That Elected Members of the Legislative Council be in a clear majority over Official and Nominated Members combined.

6. That the life of the Legislative Council be increased from three years to five.

7. That the provision requiring a voter to exercise as many votes as there are vacancies to be filled (in Regulation 40 (1) of the Regulations in the Schedule to Ordinance No. 14 of 1935) be repealed.

8. That the Executive Council be reconstituted with a view to establishing a system of administration which would afford Elected Members of the Legislative Council the opportunity of participating in the work of Government.

SECONDLY: on the desirability of—

1. Reconstituting all District Town Boards so that the majority of members shall be elected.

2. Changing the existing manner of election to a District Town Board.

3. Each District Town Board electing its own Chairman.

4. Establishing, in villages with a population exceeding two hundred and fifty, Boards or Councils to whom would be given administrative and financial responsibility.

The Commission sat, in public and in private, on various occasions throughout the year, and visited some of the Districts. It had not submitted a report by the end of the year.

The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council selected as the Colony's delegates to The Standing Closer Association Committee one member of Council—the Honourable Mr. W. H. Courtenay, member for the Western Division—and one other—Mr. F. R. Dragten, O.B.E., K.C., J.P. These delegates attended the meeting of the Committee held in Barbados in November.

Several important development schemes received approval during the year. These included:—

(a) The construction and staffing of a Technical Training School in Belize	£ 44,500
(b) The construction of Ten Rural Dispensaries ..	25,000
(c) The Forest Regeneration Plan	50,000
(d) The Purchase of Baking Pot Estate	2,500

(destined to become a Central Farm and
Agricultural Department Headquarters)

£

(e) Feeder Roads 100,000

The two major road construction schemes—the Belize-Cayo Road and the Hector Creek Road—made good progress and are expected to be completed in 1949. A sum of £5,000 was approved under the central allocation of the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for forestry research projects.

But the most important event of the year in the sphere of development was the publication in September of the Report of the British Guiana and British Honduras Settlement Commission. In so far as British Honduras is concerned, the Commission recommended a programme extending over 10 years at a cost of between £7 million—£10 million. Specific commercial projects included the expansion of the sugar and citrus industries, the establishment of banana and cocoa plantations and a dairying industry. Capital expenditure on roads, port facilities and hotel accommodation, and expenditure on experimental projects, surveys, and an expansion of social services, were also recommended. The report has been under careful consideration both in the Colonial Office and in the Colony; and certain discussions had taken place with the Colonial Development Corporation by the end of the year.

The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of St. George's Caye (in which the last attempt by the Spaniards to oust the British settlers from the settlement of Belize was decisively defeated) was observed with great enthusiasm throughout the Colony in a week of patriotic meetings and celebrations culminating on September 10th. A special issue of postage stamps marked the occasion, although these had not unfortunately been received in time for release until early in 1949.

Improved scales of salary were introduced throughout the Civil Service during the year, following the visit and report of Mr. T. F. Sandford, C.M.G., Salaries Commissioner. The new rates were introduced with retrospective effect to the 1st January, 1946. This retrospective payment imposed a heavy strain on the Colony's finances, but a special grant of \$100,750 was received from H.M. Government in this connection. The financial year opened (January 1st) with a surplus of \$280,425 and closed (December 31st) with a surplus of \$95,000. The Fiscal Revision Committee, which had reported in 1947 and early in 1948, was convened again towards the end of the year to re-examine possibilities of increasing revenue.

Sir Gerald Hawkesworth was obliged to tender his resignation as Governor of British Honduras on health grounds, and left the Colony at the end of July. His departure was regretted by all sections of the population. His successor, Mr. R. H. Garvey, C.M.G., M.B.E., Administrator of St. Vincent, Windward Islands, took up his appointment shortly after the end of the year.

A long and distinguished career in the service of the Colony came to an end when Mr. A. N. Wolffsohn, C.M.G., O.B.E., Colonial Secretary, went on leave pending retirement in mid-June.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

At a Census taken in April, 1946, the population of the Colony was 59,149, and at the end of 1947 it was estimated to be 61,503, comprising 29,835 males and 31,668 females. Intermixing is such that racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but it may be said that the Northern and Western Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of Spanish and Maya Indian peoples. In the Capital, the 'Creoles' (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority though there are a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and of Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States nationals. There is in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, a predominance of Caribs but Maya Indians have some large settlements in the extreme South.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles</i>	<i>Persons per Square Mile</i>
Belize	28,591	1,623	17.62
Northern	13,206	2,180	6.06
Stann Creek ..	6,765	840	8.05
Toledo	6,653	2,125	3.13
Cayo	7,933	1,830	4.32
<hr/>			
The Colony ..	63,148	8,598	7.34

The population of the leading towns at the 1946 Census was as follows:

	<i>Persons</i>
Belize	21,886
Corozal	2,190
Orange Walk ..	1,395
Cayo	1,548
Benque Viejo ..	1,264
Stann Creek ..	3,414
Punta Gorda ..	1,375.

A review of the 1931 and 1946 census figures shows increases in the population of all the Districts except the Northern, which declined 3.81 per cent., although the preponderance of births over deaths from year to year during the intervening period would have led one to expect an increase. This position rather supports the general view of a trend to concentration in Belize due to the exodus, from the agriculturally important Northern District, of small-planters, who, it is common belief, have forsaken the land in search of more lucrative occupations. The slightest margin of increase is to be observed in the Toledo District (2.42 per cent.), which is no doubt due partly to abnormal death rates throughout the years 1931 to 1946, (which reached the alarming figure of 53.6 in 1945), and partly to migration from the District of its residents in search of employment.

Births per thousand of the population dropped from 40.2 in 1947 to 39.57. Deaths per thousand were recorded at 13.63 as against 17.5 in 1947. The infantile mortality rate is highest in the Toledo District with its large Maya population, which recorded rates of over 27 per cent. in 1944 and 1945, but declined to just under 19 in 1946 and further to 16.5 in 1947. The rate is now recorded at 15.68. The lowest rate recorded is that of Belize—8.27. The rates in the other Districts are as follows: Northern 12.13; Stann Creek 10.87; Cayo 10.27 and for the Colony 10.56.

Chapter II: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

In British Honduras the employment available in the forest industries, the mainstay of the Colony's economy, is largely seasonal, timber extraction operations being principally confined to the first six months of the year when the dry weather permits logging over primitive roads, while chicle bleeding is carried out in the wet months, July to February, as rains induce a good flow of gum from the trees.

A statement of the particulars of the employment in the principal occupations on the 31st December, 1948, follows:

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
PRIMARY PRODUCTION				
<i>Mahogany</i> Labourers	355	\$20.00 to \$23.00 per month plus rations at \$2.50 per week	50	Employment usually seasonal from October to June.
Tractor and Truck Drivers	42	\$60.00 to \$75.00 per month and rations at \$3.50 per week		
Other Workers	88	\$30.00 a month and rations at \$3.50 per week		
	485			
<i>Pine and other secondary woods</i> Labourers working in the forests at felling, etc.	185	\$1.40 a day		
Tractor and Truck Drivers	53	\$50.00 to \$65.00 a month	50	
Other Workers	25	\$1.50 per day		

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
<i>Chicle</i> Bleeders, Muleteers and others	1,890	25¢ a lb. for Crown Gum 35¢ a lb. for Super- ior Gum	50	
	1,890			
<i>Agriculture</i> Cane Fields	195	\$1.00 a day	48	
	195			
SECONDARY PRODUCTION				
Sawmills				
Supervisors and clerical workers	81	\$2.75 to \$5.00 a day		
Machinery at- tendants and op- erators	126	\$2.00 to \$3.00 a day	56	
Labourers hand- ling lumber	435	\$1.30 and \$1.50 a day		
	642			
<i>Factories and other Industrial Establishments</i>				
Aerated Water				
Males	32	\$2.50 to \$12.00 per week	45	
Females	31	do.		
Cigarettes Males	19	\$3.00 to \$14.00 per week	45	
Females	20	\$4.00 to \$12.00 per week		
Canning grape- fruit juice Males				
Females	126	\$1.20 to \$3.00 per day	48	
Ice Males	6	\$1.00 to \$1.50 a day	48	
Soap Males	12	\$9.00 to \$20.00 per week	45	
Females	1	\$8.00 per week		
Sugar Males	46	\$1.50 to \$2.75 a day	54	

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks	
Bakeries	45	\$3.00 to \$18.00 per week	50		
Blacksmith and repair machine shops	45	\$8.00 to \$25.00 per week	48		
Cabinet Shops	45	\$2.25 to \$3.00 per day	48		
Printing Establishments	40	\$3.00 to \$15.00 per week	48		
Shoe repairing & manufacturing shops	85	\$6.00 to \$24.00 per week	48		
Tailoring Establishments	46	\$2.50 to \$9.00 per week	48		
Tinsmith shops	5				
	604				
Boat Building & Repairing	75	15¢ to 47¢ per hour	48		
Public Works Dept.					
Road Labourers	382	\$1.58 to \$1.82 a day	48		
Lorry Drivers	54	\$2.32 to \$2.64 a day			
Carpenters and Painters	48	\$2.00 to \$3.68 a day			
Other Tradesmen	116	\$2.64 to \$4.32 a day			
	600				
SERVICES					Intermittent employment averaging 6 days a month
Transport of goods by sea					
(i) Handling general cargo	90	30¢ per hour and free food			
(ii) Stevedore handling logs for export	60	50¢ to 75¢ per hour			
(iii) Dock Labourers	75	29¢ per hour			
	225				

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
<i>Forest Department</i>				
Labourers Males	137	\$1.00 to \$1.68 a day	48	
Females	9	Average earnings \$1.00 a day		
	146			
<i>Health Department</i>				
Labourers	62	\$1.45 to \$1.66 a day	44	
Cartmen	16	\$1.51 to \$1.92 a day		
Vehicle Drivers	2	\$2.19 to \$2.50 a day		
	80			
<i>Belize City Council</i>				
Labourers	16	\$1.74 to \$2.16 a day	48	
Other Workers	9	\$1.60 to \$2.75 a day		
	25			

*Males unless otherwise stated.

Cost of Living

From a survey held by the Labour Department in 1942 embracing 100 working class families in Belize it was found that the average amounts paid out weekly under the main groups of household expenditure were as follows:

Food	\$7.00
Clothing	1.37
Rent	1.20
Fuel, Light and Washing	0.98
Other Items	2.30
	<hr/>
	\$12.95

Price levels at the time of the survey were 34.7 above pre-war conditions and as the index figure had risen to 211 by the end of 1948 the cost of maintaining unchanged the 1942 standards of living would then have been approximately \$27.32.

The trend of the cost of living in 1948 is shown by the index figures hereunder:

1st January	206
1st April	211
1st July	210
1st October	209

No accurate records are available as to the cost of living for Europeans but the rates for hotels and boarding houses vary from \$3.00 to \$4.00 a day, and from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a month.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Size and Work of the Labour Department

The Labour Department was established in 1939 with duties following closely those of other colonies. The staff during 1948 consisted of the Labour Officer, a Labour Inspector, one Second Class Clerk and an office messenger.

Trade Unions

Two new trade unions came into existence during 1948 and these brought the total number of registered trade unions to five. Particulars of these organizations and their reported memberships on the 31st December, 1948, are as follows:—

(a) The British Honduras General Workers Union (formed in 1939), a general union of all classes of workers, including domestic servants. Its headquarters are in Belize, and with its six branches in the District areas the number of financial members was reported as 1,818, of whom 125 were females.

(b) The Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Painters Union, established in 1944, whose membership is restricted to the classes of workers named. The number of financial members was stated to be 61.

(c) The National Labour Union, which was registered during 1947, with 227 financial members. This Union is confined to labourers only, but its Rules provide for the admission of other classes of workers if it can be proven that they cannot obtain membership with any other trade union.

(d) The British Honduras Civil Service Association which was originally formed in 1922, and became a registered trade union on the 26th January, 1948. There were 386 names on the roll of members.

(e) The British Honduras Mercantile Clerks Union of shop assistants, and clerical workers, which was registered on the 14th July, 1948. The paid-up membership was stated to be 142, inclusive of 69 females.

No associations of employers have yet been formed.

Labour Disputes

There were no collective disputes. 195 individual complaints were lodged at and dealt with by the Labour Department: these involved dismissals without notice, failure to pay wages due, illegal deductions from wages, overcharges for goods at camp commissariats, compensation for accidents received in the course of work, and other matters.

Labour Legislation

The relations between master and servant are controlled by the Employers and Workers Ordinance, No. 6 of 1943, which repealed and replaced previous legislation dating as far back as 1883.

A system of workmen's compensation for accidents sustained during the course of their employment was established in 1943. It follows closely the system in other West Indian colonies. Agricultural workers are included in its scope and insurance is available from various firms operating in the Colony.

The Factories Ordinance, No. 9 of 1942, provides for the maintenance of machinery safeguards and for the regulation of the conditions of employment in factories.

The establishment and registration of Trade Unions is governed by the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, whilst the settlement of trade disputes may be effected by arbitration under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939, when voluntary means fail.

Other ordinances in force govern the practices of recruiting, provide for the fixing of minimum wages, and regulate the employment of women, young persons and children.

There is no legislation to provide for old age pensions, or for relief in cases of sickness. The indigent receive outdoor relief from a charity vote which is administered by the Outdoor Relief Committee and the sick are given free treatment at Government hospitals if they are found to be destitute.

The only important variation in the legislation relating to conditions of employment was the extension, by Statutory Rules and Orders No. 21 of 1948, of the provisions of the Shops (Regulation) Ordinance, 1943, (which formerly applied to the capital city of Belize only) to all the principal towns in the Districts, and shop assistants in these smaller towns now enjoy the same benefits of reduced hours of work and the privilege of an annual holiday with pay provided in the Ordinance.

Chapter III: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Throughout the war years, it was not found possible to meet Government Expenditure, which increased steadily, year by year, entirely from Revenue raised within the Colony, notwithstanding the considerable expansion which took place in Customs Duties and Income Tax. The resultant annual deficit was met by a grant-in-aid from His Majesty's Treasury, except in 1947 when it was not required.

1. Accounts for the Calendar Year 1948.

The surplus brought forward from 1947 amounted to 253,263, which did not include \$27,162 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. True revenue for 1948 is shown at \$2,554,151, while true expenditure is given as \$2,813,529. The surplus at the end of December 1948 was \$76,063 which did not include \$26,671 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. The sum of £25,000 was drawn from His Majesty's Exchequer during the year 1948 as a contribution towards the retrospective payment of increases in salaries from 1st January 1946 on the revised scales.

Revenue

The total true revenue of the Colony rose from \$2,206,218 in 1946 to \$2,554,151 in 1948, the figure for 1947 being \$2,505,798. Comparative figures for three years are shown below under the principal heads.

	1946 \$	1947 \$	*1948 \$
Customs, including Surtaxes ..	932,485	1,227,026	1,061,045
Internal Taxation	567,095	639,150	752,713
Revenue of Government Property	106,509	190,670	147,114
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ..	232,532	134,036	179,329
Self-balancing Revenue (Posts & Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Power)	251,604	225,995	330,536
Interest and Sinking Fund of repayments	74,660	61,086	55,739
Miscellaneous	40,333	27,835	27,675
True Revenue ..	2,206,218	2,505,798	2,554,151

Receipts from Imperial Funds

Colonial Development & Welfare	350,683	435,360	510,128
Grant-in-aid	80,600	—	100,750
Total Revenue ..	2,637,501	2,941,158	3,165,029

The Internal Taxation increases were largely due to the growing yield from income tax, which in 1946 was \$260,413, in 1947 \$346,818 and in 1948 \$414,127.

Expenditure

The comparative figures shown below have been classified under main heads.

	1946 \$	1947 \$	*1948 \$
Administration	985,555	1,281,360	1,428,915
Social Services (Education, Health, Prisons,)	401,118	476,028	568,248
Subventions (including price stabilization)	194,501	35,322	36,941
Public Debt	164,558	163,579	157,911
Public Works Improvements ..	168,199	153,765	219,305
Self-balancing Expenditure (Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and Electric Power)	168,482	244,206	253,008

*Provisional figures.

Expenditure on Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes	356,845	433,401	528,699
Production (Agriculture & Forestry)	110,350	122,324	149,201
	<u>2,549,608</u>	<u>2,909,985</u>	<u>3,342,228</u>

Administration includes expenditure on Justice, Police, Pensions, Defence, Public Works and some minor branches of Government work. The large increase in the expenditure on this head in 1948 is due to the increase in salary scales with retrospective effect from 1st January, 1948.

2. Public Debt

The outstanding debt of the Colony at the 31st December, 1948, amounted to \$1,581,281, of which sum \$94,150 was in respect of borrowings made locally. Sinking funds in hand amounted to \$336,054, thus giving a figure of \$1,245,227 as the net outstanding debt. The total interest being paid on the loans outstanding represents a rate of 4.3 per centum per annum. Of the total amount owing, the sum of \$404,685 is outstanding to the Imperial Treasury, being the balance of loans made in 1932 for reconstruction and development work following the hurricane in 1931.* Loan charges, which in 1948 amounted to \$157,911, representing 4.7 per cent of the total expenditure, constitute a not inconsiderable burden on the revenues of the Colony.

*This amount, however is being remitted by the Imperial Treasury.

3. Assets and Liabilities

A provisional statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as at 31st December, 1948, shows Assets divisible as follows:

	* \$
Cash	262,877
Investments of Various Funds	1,784,267
Advances to official and public organizations	179,822
	<u>\$2,226,966</u>

Liabilities may be classified briefly as shown below:

	* \$
Unexpended balances of loans	3,342
Deposits—Fund balances, etc.	2,142,960
Drafts	4,601
Surplus	76,063
	<u>\$2,226,966</u>

In addition, the following information must be given to present a true account.

*Provisional figures.

	\$
Public Debt of the Colony	1,581,281
Less accumulated Sinking Fund in hand ..	336,054
	<hr/>
	1,245,227
Loan Investments	606,794
	<hr/>

The sum of \$26,671 was also due to the Colony on account of expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.

4. Description of the Main Heads of Taxation

The main heads and their yield in revenue are set out below:

	1946	1947	*1948
<i>Customs</i>	\$	\$	\$
Import Duties	766,845	1,042,246	890,328
Export Duties	90,670	117,195	109,318
Package Tax	50,936	53,435	25,366
Harbour Dues, etc.	11,995	14,150	15,441
Entry Tax			20,593
<i>Internal Taxation, etc.</i>			
Excise Duties	220,031	186,862	203,902
Income Tax	260,413	346,818	414,127
Land Tax	40,242	39,653	39,429
Estate Duty	5,729	3,311	35,161
Licences, Banks & Fire Insurance Companies	1,376	1,443	1,523
Other Licences:			
Motor Vehicles, etc.	18,672	19,933	25,167
Fines of Court	11,763	17,385	13,401
Fees of Court and Stamp Duties	19,020	14,750	12,620
Warehouse Rents	32,549	37,886	32,579

Import Duties. The tariff of import duties is largely *ad valorem* with a general duty of 25 per centum and a preferential rate of 12½ per centum. Specific duties are levied on wines, certain defined spirits and tobacco and cigarettes. Equipment for agricultural and forestry operations is admitted free of duty.

Export Duties are levied upon chicle, coconuts, mahogany, cedar, pine and fish.

Package Tax. This is a tax of 15 cents on every package passing through the Customs Department.

Entry Tax. This Tax came into effect on 21.7.48 imposing a 1 % Tax on the C. I. F. values on all goods imported into the Colony for home consumption. This repealed the Package Tax Ordinance.

*Provisional figures for 1948.

Excise Duty is imposed on locally produced rum at the rate of \$4.50 per proof gallon if intended for consumption within the Colony. There is also a small duty on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Land Tax. A tax is levied on all lands at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents an acre.

Income Tax. Increased rates of tax were imposed during 1948 providing for a levy on the chargeable income of any person at the rate of 5 per centum of the first \$500 increasing by a sliding scale up to 35 per centum on that part of incomes in excess of \$19,000. A surtax on a sliding scale is also levied on chargeable income in excess of \$10,000 being 10 per centum on the first \$5,000, 15 per centum on the next \$5,000 and 20 per centum on the remainder. Company Tax is at the rate of 35 cents on every dollar of chargeable income of a Company.

Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies. Any establishment carrying on the business of banking pays an annual licence fee of \$500, and Fire Insurance Companies pay a licence fee at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum on gross premiums with a minimum fee of 25 dollars.

Estate Duty. Duty is chargeable on estates over \$100 based on a scale which is \$1.00 per centum on estates up to \$500 increasing to \$15.00 per centum on estates over \$50,000.

Licences—Motor Vehicles. An annual duty is payable on all motor vehicles varying according to the weight of the vehicle, its classification, and the purpose it serves.

Stamp Duties. The chief features are impositions of 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange with 10 cents for every \$100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every \$50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse Rents. A charge is made on merchandise which is deposited in bond, usually for re-export.

5. Customs Tariff

Broadly, the Customs Schedule of Duties may be described as a two-part *ad valorem* tariff on C.I.F. prices with specific duties on a few selected articles. Under the general tariff, the majority of the small and general importations subject to *ad valorem* duties bear a 25 per cent imposition; under the preferential tariff the duty is one of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

As a consequence of an Ordinance passed in 1939 to impose as a wartime measure a surtax on certain Customs duties, the duty on a number of articles, the chief of which were bicycles, clocks, watches, hosiery, wines and spirits, cigarettes and sugar, was increased by 25 per centum; the duty on a few other articles was increased on a specific basis.

Equipment, such as trucks, tractors, carts, wagons and agricultural implements, imported to aid in agriculture or in forestry operations, is admitted

free. Machinery for agricultural purposes, sugar manufacturing, marine purposes, and printing, together with sewing machines, are free under the Preferential Tariff and bear only a five per cent impost under the General Tariff.

Specific duties, with some qualifications, are levied on importations of cattle, on certain manufactured articles such as bicycles, boots and shoes, fuel oils and petroleum, on the chief items of food and on wines, spirits and tobacco.

Some imports, the principal of which are clocks, jewellery, cutlery, plated goods and jams, etc., bear a thirty per cent levy on the General Tariff and fifteen per cent on the Preferential.

6. Excise

Excise Duties are confined to rum and tobacco, the rate on the former being \$4.50 per gallon if not exceeding the strength of proof and \$4.50 per proof gallon. The rates on tobacco, as increased by a war surtax, are now:

- (a) cigars, weighing not more than 5 lb. per 1,000 20 cents per 100
weighing over 5 lb. per 1,000 50 cents per 100
- (b) cigarettes weighing not more than 3 lb. per
1,000 15 cents per 100
weighing over 3 lb. per 1,000 30 cents per 100
- (c) manufactured 60 cents per lb.

Stamp Duties. The main features have been described elsewhere in this chapter. Some specific rates are given below:

	\$
Affidavits and Declarations .. .. .	.50
Agreements: if not under seal .. .. .	.10
if under seal	2.50
Bills of Exchange payable on demand or at sight or on presentation or within three days after date or sight .. .. .	.03
Bill of Lading for export of goods .. .. .	.10
Bonds: For every \$50 or part of \$50 of the amount of the penalty .. .. .	.10
To a maximum	2.50
Deeds not charged with <i>ad valorem</i> duty	2.50
Leases, Tenancy Agreements for definite terms not exceeding a year:	
For a dwelling house rent less than \$96 p.a. .. .. .	.02
In other cases: if not under seal .. .. .	.10
if under seal	2.50
Passports	2.50
Renewal fee for each year .. .. .	.25
Share Warrants to bearer by a Company Registered in the Colony \$50 or part of \$50 of nominal value .. .. .	.75

7. Income Tax

Income Tax on individuals was payable at the following rates:

		\$			
On the first	500	of Chargeable Income	5%		
„ next	500	„	6%		
„ „	500	„	8%		
„ „	500	„	10%		
„ „	500	„	12½%		
„ „	500	„	15%		
„ „	500	„	17½%		
„ „	1,000	„	20%		
„ „	4,500	„	25%		
„ „	10,000	„	30%		
On all amounts above \$19,000		„	35%		

The rates of Surtax on Individuals were:

On the first \$5,000 in excess of \$10,000 of Chargeable Income	10%
On the next \$5,000	15%
On the remainder	20%

The tax on Companies was 35%.

Incidence of Income Tax

Tax Payable

Gross Income	Single Person	Married Man	Married man with one child	Married Man with two children
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,000	20.00	5.00	—	—
1,500	46.00	28.00	17.50	7.50
2,000	79.00	55.00	43.00	31.00
3,000	170.00	135.00	115.00	95.00
4,000	300.00	252.50	222.50	195.00
5,000	470.00	410.00	370.00	335.00
6,000	695.00	620.00	570.00	530.00
7,000	945.00	870.00	820.00	770.00
8,000	1,195.00	1,120.00	1,070.00	1,020.00
9,000	1,445.00	1,370.00	1,320.00	1,270.00
10,000	1,695.00	1,620.00	1,570.50	1,520.00
15,000	3,595.00	3,475.00	3,395.00	3,315.00
20,000	5,795.00	5,660.00	5,570.00	5,480.00
35,000	13,995.00	13,850.00	13,720.00	13,610.00

Deductions allowed against gross income were:

Personal allowance	..	..	..	..	\$500
Wife	..	..	..	..	\$300
Each child	..	..	..	..	\$200
Dependent relative					\$125
Earned Income 1/10 of gross income up to	..				\$500
Life Insurance Premiums up to a certain limit					
Gifts to charity.					

8. Estate Duty

Under the provisions of an Ordinance in 1927, Estate Duty is payable according to a general scale as follows:

Where the principal value of the estate

Exceeds	\$		\$		\$
	100 but does not exceed		500	Duty to be payable at	1.00%
"	500	"	2,000	"	1.50%
"	2,000	"	4,000	"	2.00%
"	4,000	"	6,000	"	3.00%
"	6,000	"	10,000	"	3.50%
"	10,000	"	15,000	"	4.50%
"	15,000	"	20,000	"	5.50%
"	20,000	"	25,000	"	6.50%
"	25,000	"	30,000	"	8.00%
"	30,000	"	50,000	"	10.00%
"	50,000	"	—	"	15.00%

Chapter IV: Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

Standard and Legal Tender

The standard of currency is the British Honduras dollar which is of the equivalent value of the dollar of the United States of America. Currency notes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 issued by the Currency Commissioners are legal tender up to any amount. Subsidiary silver currency is legal tender in payment of any amount not exceeding ten dollars but coins of bronze nickel or mixed metal in five cent or one cent pieces are legal tender up to fifty cents only.

Circulation

The note circulation of the Colony, which stood at \$283,536 at the 31st December, 1939, expanded to \$832,331 at the end of 1948. The figures for each denomination were as follows:

	Number of Notes	Amount \$
\$1	92,867	92,867
\$2	49,652	99,304
\$5	87,224	436,120
\$10	20,404	204,040
		<hr/> \$832,331

This figure represented an increase of \$20,933 over the quantity in circulation a year before. The reserve of notes, at the commencement of the year was \$1,216,000. The issues during the year amounted to \$142,000 leaving a balance on hand at 31st December of \$1,074,000.

Subsidiary Currency

The Coin issue of the Colonial Government at the 31st December was as follows:

<i>Silver</i>	\$
50 cent pieces	69,952
25 " " " " " "	49,389
10 " " " " " " "	25,739
5 " " " " " " " "	5,546
<i>Mixed metal (nickel, bronze, etc)</i>	
5 cent pieces	20,003
1 " " " (bronze)	12,954
	<hr/>
	\$183,583

BANKING

There is only one banking establishment in the Colony, that of the Royal Bank of Canada in Belize which was established in 1912 when the Bank of British Honduras was purchased. The Bank provides all the usual banking services.

The Government Savings Bank, operating from the Treasury in Belize, with a branch in the administrative centre of each district, increased its deposits from \$410,632 at the 1st January, 1939, to \$1,808,903 at the end of 1948. The deposits during 1948, increased by \$69,191 as compared with the figures of the previous year. Account holders numbered 7,575 with an average holding of \$239.

Chapter V: Commerce

EXPORTS

The Colony's chief exports are mahogany and cedar logs, mahogany, cedar and pine lumber, bananas and citrus fruits and re-exports of manufactured articles.

The exports for the years 1947 and 1948 were as follows:—

	1947 (£)	1948 (£)
Domestic Exports	\$4,540,707	\$4,243,522
Re-Exports	1,611,303	1,899,079
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Exports	\$6,152,010	\$6,142,601

Grapefruit Juice to the value of \$429,473 was exported during 1948 as compared with \$416,904 in 1947. The exports of Chicle Gums were \$1,444.

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COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORT : BRITISH HONDURAS 1948

E R R A T U M

Page 20, Chapter V

Exports for 1947 and 1948. The figures in the first column should be headed 1948 not 1947 and in the second 1947 not 1948.

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655 as against 1947 figures which were \$1,669,674. There has been a gradual annual increase of the exports of Pine and Mahogany lumber. The exports of Pine lumber amounted to \$418,553 as against \$156,911 in 1947. Mahogany lumber exported realized \$1,203,898 in 1948 and \$1,089,784 in 1947. The exports of Mahogany logs, which went principally to the United States of America, amounted to \$1,438,623 in 1948 as against \$1,522,009 in 1947. Coconuts exported in 1948 amounted to \$154,429 as against the exports in 1947 of \$155,438.

IMPORTS

Imports showed a decrease of \$207,376 compared with the previous year's figure of \$8,282,836, this is due principally to the restrictions on Imports. Mahogany logs imported into the Colony did not play a major part in the imports of 1948, the imports being in 1948 \$593,114, this however showed a slight increase over that of 1947, which was \$548,090. The imports of rice during the current year amounted to 24,467 cwt. at a value of \$250,467; 1947 imports were 22,293 cwt. costing \$217,506. 36,743 bags of flour (196 lb.) cost \$495,251 in 1948 while 36,868 cost \$510,051 in 1947. The imports of motor cars and trucks and jeeps were 86 units to the value of \$116,953, while the previous year's imports were 125 vehicles valuing \$218,751. The value of imports of Cotton Piece Goods showed an increase of \$37,946 over the 1947 imports of \$539,297. Chiclé gums imported for re-exports were valued at \$537,406, being an increase of \$178,874 over 1947 imports.

Chapter VI: Production

AGRICULTURE

The staff of the Department of Agriculture consisted of a Director of Agriculture, a Veterinary Officer, two Assistant Agricultural Officers, one Agricultural Instructor, one Junior Agricultural Instructor, two Senior Farm Demonstrators and four Farm Demonstrators. In addition, seventeen Temporary Farm Demonstrators were employed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for increased food production.

Crop Production.

The dry season was of normal duration and generally favourable for the preparation of the farms for the planting and production of the principal food crops. The area cleared was considerably larger than in 1947. With the onset of the rains, particularly in the Northern District which is the principal maize growing area, severe flooding occurred. This prevented the planting of the total acreage intended for maize but added materially to the area under rice. The yield of most of the crops normally planted during the first half of the year, was affected by an exceptionally long and dry period during the second half of the year. Approximate estimates of acreages and yields of the principal crops were:—

Maize (Corn)	14,500 acres yielding 1,000 lb. per acre
Rice (Paddy)	3,260 acres yielding 1,200 lb. per acre

Beans (various)	900 acres yielding 250 lb. per acre
Root Crops (yams, cassava, tannia)	2,500 acres yielding 2,300 lb. per acre
Plantains & Bananas	3,800 acres
Coconuts	6,200 acres yielding 2,600 nuts per acre
Citrus	2,000 acres yielding 120 boxes of 90 lb. each
Sugar Cane	2,000 acres yielding 13 tons cane per acre.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.

An appreciable improvement occurred in the general care and management of livestock, largely due to improved veterinary services, the regular supply and use of drugs and earlier notification of and attention to the commoner locally occurring complaints of livestock. Attention was also given to breeding by the wider appreciation and use of the stud bulls and boars maintained by the Department of Agriculture at various centres in the principal livestock areas.

Approximate figures for the various types of livestock were:—

Cattle (milk, beef and draught)	10,600
Pigs	10,000
Horses, mules and donkeys	3,000
Sheep and Goats	500
Poultry (Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks)	45,000

ORGANISATION AND DESTINATION OF PRODUCTION

Grain Crops. An appreciably larger quantity of maize was marketed. This was as a result of the increased acreage planted which encouraged the Mayan Indians to dispose of a larger proportion of this crop than is usual. With the exception of relatively small areas, ample stocks were kept for domestic consumption.

Exports of maize to Jamaica and the United Kingdom amounted to 360 tons. This was the first recorded export of any appreciable quantity of this crop.

There was a marked increase in the production of rice both in the Toledo and Northern Districts and growers sold larger quantities in addition to retaining increased amounts for consumption.

Beans. Production was almost entirely for local domestic consumption and smaller quantities than usual were marketed.

Bananas. In spite of the ravages of leaf spot disease the newly planted acreage continued to increase and exports from the Monkey River area, in particular, were larger than for several years past. Approximately 114,000 bunches valued at \$65,000 were exported.

Coconuts. A general decline in the productivity of the plantations in the Northern District reduced the marketable crop. Uncertainty as to prices also had an unsettling effect. Efforts were made to divert a much greater proportion of the crop than usual to oil manufacture for local consumption. Slightly under 3,000,000 nuts valued at \$154,420 were exported.

Citrus. Conditions were favourable and a record crop was reaped in the Stann Creek District. Extensive areas of land were cleared, nurseries prepared and planted by private interests and other steps taken to increase production as rapidly as possible. Towards the end of the year the export of grapefruit as whole fruit was resumed for the first time since the end of the war. Exports of fruit and juice in 1948 were to the United Kingdom only. Total exports during the year amounted to \$472,650 approximately.

Sugar Cane. Production of the crop in the field was in the hands of small growers. There was a considerable increase in the crop planted in 1948. Sales amounted to 10,500 tons of sugar cane. In addition to small quantities of a low grade brown sugar produced in the Toledo District principally, 1,126 tons of white sugar were produced in the Northern District. Production did not meet local requirements and importation from Jamaica was necessary.

Marketing.

With the enactment of legislation to establish the Marketing Board, the Board of Agriculture ceased to exist. The guaranteed prices offered by the Board of Agriculture were paid to the growers throughout the year. These prices were sufficiently attractive to induce increased sales of the staple crops. The decline in the mahogany and chicle trades led to increased interest in corn and rice production for sale.

FISHERIES

There is no Fisheries Department. Fishing in the Colony engages about 125 fishing dories and smacks of a length varying from fifteen to thirty-five feet and averaging from half a ton to ten tons each, with an aggregate of 150 tons.

During the year 1948 two motor vessels were engaged in the catching and purchasing of lobsters and other fishes for export to the United States of America. Both these vessels are equipped with deep-freeze refrigeration.

There was also one Catalina Flying Boat, which made regular trips, for a few months, from Florida to Belize for the purpose of buying lobsters to be taken to Florida. This aircraft took on each trip an average of about 4,000 pounds of live lobsters.

Legislation governing fishing generally in the waters of the Colony is still under consideration by Government. On the 24th September, 1948, an export duty on fish came into effect. The rates are as follows:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Crawfish (commonly known as Crayfish,
Rock Lobster and Shell Fish) | 1½ cents a pound on gross
tail weight. |
| (b) Whole Crawfish | ½ cent a pound. |
| (c) On other fish, whether fresh, salted or
smoked | 1 cent a pound. |

FORESTRY

The principal forest products are:

- (a) Mahogany logs and lumber
- (b) Cedar logs and lumber
- (c) Pine lumber
- (d) Secondary hardwood logs and lumber
- (e) Rosewood sold by the ton
- (f) Chicle and Crown gum
- (g) Cohune kernels
- (h) Firewood and charcoal
- (i) Alligator skins

The total area of forest lands in the Colony is 8,337 square miles or 93.9 per cent of the total area. It consists of the following types:

I	Mangrove forests	.. .. .	approximately	2.8%
II	Savannahs			
	(a) Brackish water)	Wet Savannahs	..	2.7%
	(b) Fresh water)			
	(c) Inland	Pine forest	..	15.4%
III	Pine forest	Dry Savannahs	..	
IV	High rain forest			
	1. Swamp forest .. .. .	..	2.3%	
	2. Intermediate forest .. .. .	..	17.9%	
	3. Mountain forest)			
	4. Advanced forest)	Advanced forest	..	51.9%
V	Secondary rain forest)			
	(i) High forest)			
	(ii) Existing and recently abandoned cultivation .. .. .	..	7.0%	
Total land area of mainland				100.0%

The change over from mahogany logging to pine sawmilling has made rapid progress during 1948. This has made it possible to introduce improvements in forest management by insisting on planned exploitation of all species, pine, mahogany and secondary hardwoods around each sawmill. Apart from one large concession among the hills all exports of logs from Crown lands and most of those from private lands had ceased by the end of the year. So prosperous was the pine lumber export market that the local requirements were not met.

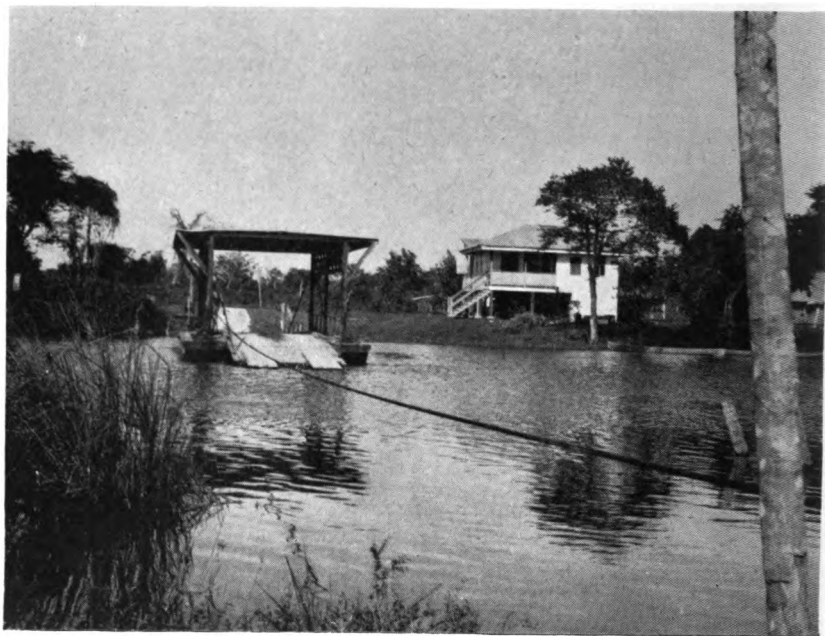
The mahogany prices fell considerably towards the end of the year owing partly to large exports of logs and lumber from British West Africa and to an increase in the export of locally sawn mahogany.

The extensive cutting of pine lumber has necessitated increased fire protection measures to protect natural regeneration on the cut over sections



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A CHICLERO STRETCHING CHICLE AS IT BEGINS TO SET



THE NEW RIVER FERRY ON THE BELIZE-COROZAL ROAD NEAR THE MEXICAN BORDER



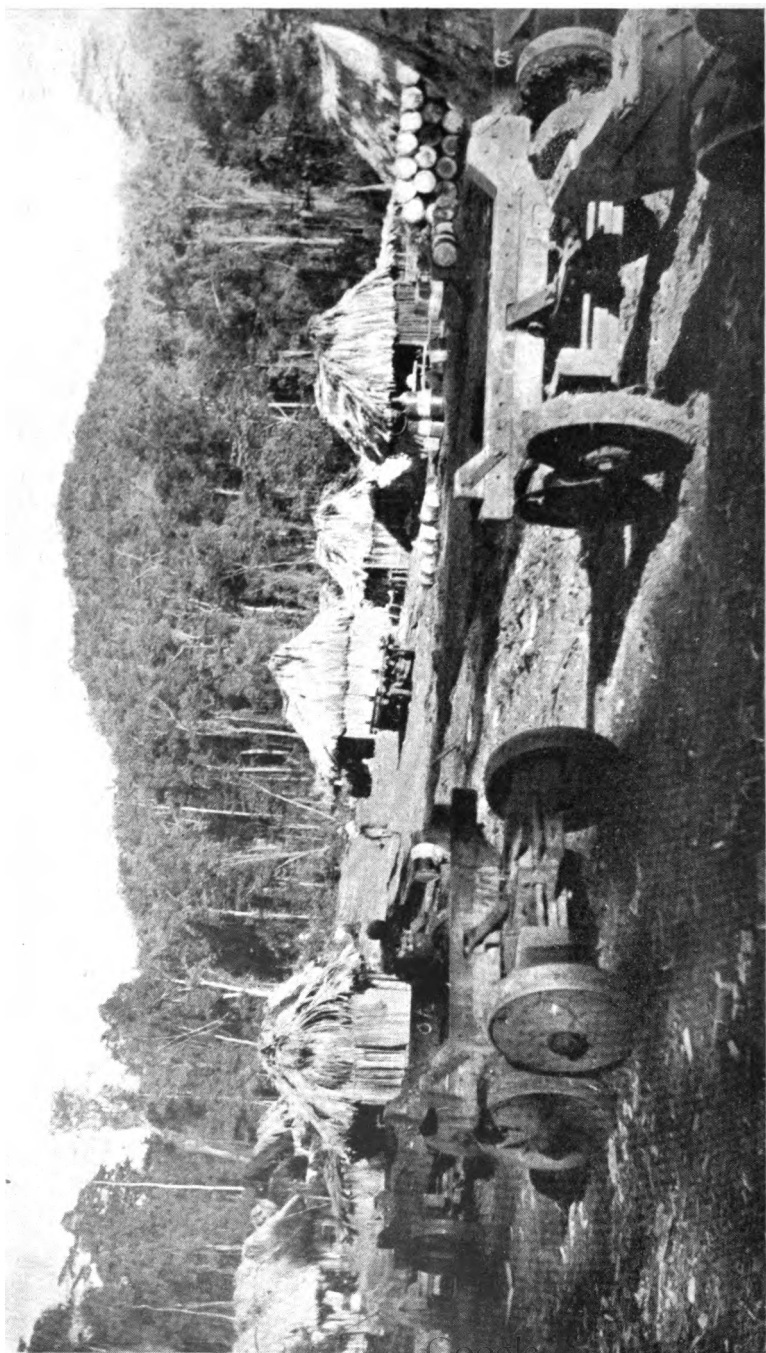
CROSSING THE RIVER AT EL CAYO IN A "DORIE"



MAYA INDIAN CHILDREN DANCING THE ZAPATEADO ON THE
FIESTA OF ST. JOSEPH



A TYPICAL MAYA INDIAN HOUSE IN BENQUE VIEJO, CAYO DISTRICT



Jeep fire engines and ploughed firelines are being used to lessen the danger of fire and prevent its spread.

In spite of the competition from synthetic chicle, all chicleros available were employed in tapping this gum. The best chicle is required in all chewing gum and finds its largest market in the U.S.A. and Canada. However, owing to the currency restrictions increased amounts are now being exported to the United Kingdom. An inferior gum known as Crown Gum is extracted in the wetter forests of the South. In order to work this area, the royalty was removed for the 1948-49 season leaving an export duty of 4¢ per lb. as the sole charge on contractors. In 1948 466.3 tons of chicle and Crown Gum \$891,444 were exported.

The eight-year Forest Regeneration Plan incorporating a grant of \$200,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, was approved on 1st June, 1948, and immediately put into effect. It allows for the construction of 95 miles of dry season road to permit fire patrols to reach all pine forests and open up inaccessible blocks of hardwoods. Mahogany will be grown by natural regeneration in cut over forests and by planting in plantations with food crops. Pine being cut will be replaced by plantations formed where unproductive hardwood scrub now occupies the ground and by protecting natural regeneration from fire.

Chapter VII: Social Services

EDUCATION

The system of primary education is that of subsidized denominational schools and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). The Governor is President of the Board, while the Director of Education acts as Secretary. A representative of the teachers is included among its members.

There are seventy-eight primary schools, three of which are managed by the Government. There are also some thirty-three unaided primary schools, both denominational and private. All primary schools are co-educational, with the exception of four in Belize. The ages of enrolment for the purposes of grants-in-aid are five to sixteen.

Secondary education is entirely in the hands of the denominations, but the Government assists by providing sixty-five scholarships for pupils from primary schools, each scholarship being tenable for four years though it may be extended for a fifth year with the approval of the Board of Education. There are five secondary schools, three of which are for boys. Three have preparatory departments. Teachers are largely recruited from abroad. The age-range of pupils receiving secondary education proper is eleven to eighteen. The schools are all situated in Belize.

There is no vocational school, but a scheme has been approved for establishing one in Belize; handicrafts are taught at two schools in Belize and one in Stann Creek, and instruction in domestic science is given to a limited num-

ber of girls from the higher standards at one centre in Belize. The teaching of agriculture is encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers, and by free grants of tools. The industrial school for male juvenile delinquents, which is conducted by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Government, and which was transferred from Stann Creek to a site near the Airfield, 8 miles from Belize in 1947, had to be dispersed in March 1948 to make room for the garrison which arrived then. Plans were well ahead at the end of 1948 for restarting in temporary quarters at Corozal, and for the building of a permanent home for them near Cayo.

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen. That the enforcement of compulsion has been a success may be inferred from the fact that the percentage of the average attendance to the enrolment in the Colony is approximately eighty, the highest in the British Caribbean area. Education is not yet free, however, each primary school pupil being expected to pay a fee of 5 cents (3d.) weekly; few in fact do so.

An average of 221 certificated teachers and ninety-seven pupil teachers is employed in the primary schools. The majority of the teachers are untrained, but since 1941 selected teachers have been sent to training colleges in Jamaica, there being twelve such teachers training annually. Seventeen have thus far completed their training and have been posted to schools. Three supervisors, originally appointed as a Jeanes experiment by means of a Carnegie grant, are now permanent officers. They are rendering invaluable service in raising the standard of teaching in the schools.

The position of the teachers has been improved by the approval in 1946 of the granting of assistance towards housing. New and much improved salary scales are now paid, and the quantity and quality of recruits has improved considerably. The British Honduras Teachers' Federation, which was organized in 1939 with constituent associations in all the districts, holds an annual conference and makes recommendations to the Board of Education from time to time.

✓ A study of the Indian villages and their schools was made during 1948 by the Department staff, with a view to drawing up a more appropriate curriculum. The Board of Education Rules had to be further revised, as a result of the introduction of the new salary scales and a reorganisation of the pupil teacher training system. New syllabuses for pupil teachers were drawn up by a committee on which the Teachers' Federation was represented.

The British Council supplies periodicals to certain schools, primary and secondary. It has also given books to the Jubilee Library, Belize, to form the nucleus of a Teachers' Reference Library.

Education has benefited from Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes under which grants have been approved for the free supply of text-books, stationery and equipment to schools, towards the rehabilitation of some twenty-eight school buildings damaged or destroyed by hurricane in 1942 and towards the holding of annual teachers' vacation courses during the past four years.

The Credit Union Movement continues to grow in strength.

The average enrolment of grant-aided primary schools was 10,441 in 1948 and the average attendance 8,431. The average enrolment in the secondary schools (excluding preparatory departments) was 568, and there was an estimated enrolment of 1,285 and average attendance of 927 in non-grant-aided primary schools and preparatory departments of the secondary schools.

For 1948 the total provision from the revenue of the Colony was \$229,111. The actual expenditure was \$221,410, which included \$28,977 paid in cost of living allowances.

HEALTH

The vital statistics for the year are as follows:—

Estimated population	63,148
Number of births	2,499
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	39.57
Number of deaths from all causes	861
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	13.63
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year of age ..	264
Infant Mortality Rate per 100 live births	100.56

Malaria

This disease still continues to hold first place in the causes of morbidity. 954 cases were treated in the various hospitals throughout the Colony, representing 16% of the total hospital admissions.

Anti-malarial work was continued in the Indian villages of San Pedro Columbia and San Antonio. The effect of anti-malarial measures is reflected in the births and deaths which are shown in the comparative table below:

	<i>San Antonio</i>			<i>San Pedro Columbia</i>		
	Births	Deaths	Balance	Births	Deaths	Balance
1945	38	66	28	12	30	18
1946	24	36	12	18	30	12
1947	71	39	42	19	20	1
1948	64	22	42	26	19	7

Typhoid Fever

Thirty-eight sporadic cases were reported as compared with sixty-one in 1947.

Tuberculosis

Fifty-six cases were reported as compared with seventy-four in the previous year.

Venereal Diseases

There were 6,081 attendances at the Venereal Diseases Clinic of the Belize Hospital. 3,150 bloods were examined by the Kahn reaction for syphilis; 748 or 23.7% were positive.

There has been a significant decline in the incidence of the late complications of gonorrhoea, which formerly contributed a large share to the surgical emergencies of the Hospital.

Medical Staff

The establishment consists of a Senior Medical Officer, eight Medical Officers, a Matron, and a Nursing Sister. Other hospital staff consists of a Head Dispenser with two qualified assistants, and three apprentices, and two laboratory technicians. The nursing staff consists of thirteen staff nurses, and sixty-five nurses including nurses in training. The Health Staff includes eleven sanitary inspectors, an Inspector of Midwives, seven rural nurses and four District Nurses.

Hospitals

There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each district, with a total of 183 beds, twenty-two of which are in the maternity wards. The fees range from twenty-five cents a day for fourth-class patients to \$3.00 a day for the first-class, but no charge is made for the poor and indigent. Admissions to the Belize Hospital during 1948 numbered 3,640, and to District Hospitals 2,375. The Out-patients Department of Belize Hospital recorded 35,382 attendances including those who attended as ambulatory cases of illness, and also the various clinics including the Dental Clinic, casualty dressing and minor operations.

Sanitary Organization

Sanitary Inspectors are in charge of the scavenging of the City; they are responsible for the inspection of all receptacles for the collection of water and for the rigid enforcement of the by-laws governing bakeries, restaurants, hotels and slaughter houses.

The sea and the canals which run through the town of Belize provide the only means for a majority of the householders to dispose of their night soil. Disagreeable and unsightly as it may seem, there can be little doubt that it is the best expedient which could be adopted. Methods of disposal of night soil in the country villages are faulty.

HOUSING

In Belize, the population live in houses constructed of timber with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often swampy and flooded. The work of filling in plots with pipeshank from the sea bed is constantly being undertaken by private individuals and the City Council, while reclamation schemes have, from time to time, been undertaken by the Government. It is not usual to find any ground-floor rooms used for sleeping; their use is normally confined to storage, washing, or for kitchen purposes. Only a small number of the population live in houses which they own.

Housing conditions elsewhere in the Colony are poor. The principal building medium is locally grown pine with imported galvanized corrugated iron for roof covering. The Indians build of native round wood for framing with palmetto pole and mud walls with a thatched roof of local palm leaves.

In all towns and villages there is a definite shortage of housing accommodation, the shortage being most acute in the capital, Belize. There are at present in existence in Belize 7 Government owned houses which accommodate 7 families of the poorer type working class.

A housing scheme for Belize has been prepared consisting of thirty-three individual houses to be erected and twenty-two lots to be leased for building houses with the assistance of the Local Authority. Approval of this scheme is awaited.

SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year 1948, the revised scheme for the Social Welfare Department was approved. The staff of the Department now consists of the Co-operative and Social Welfare Officer, the Assistant Social Welfare Officer and the Handicraft Instructor.

(a) Village Councils continue to play their part in the rural areas. Although they have no official status, many communal amenities have been set up as a result of their efforts.

Women's Institutes have been formed at the villages of Rockstone Pond and Maskall on the Belize-Corozal Road. The Institute at Rockstone Pond is responsible for the running of a Soup Kitchen attached to their School. A young peoples group has also been formed at Maskall.

During the year five Credit Unions have been registered under the Credit Union Ordinance. The Credit Unions have kept away the loan sharks from many a door and serve as an easy means of providing credit for the poorer classes and the inculcation of the habit of thrift. Credit Unions are now well established in the urban areas and are now spreading to the rural areas.

Many Co-operative Groups have been organised mainly of the producer type. A Co-operative Ordinance is now on our statute book and the Co-operative rules are now awaiting passage through the Legislative Council. As soon as these rules are approved the Societies will be able to register.

Handicraft continues in the Government Institutions, at the Prison, Poor House and Asylum. A payment scheme has been introduced among the inmates of the Poor House, which apart from the financial value derived serves as a means of encouraging the inmates to feel that they are still part of society and has a contribution to make.

A Handicraft Centre has now been opened and classes of instruction have been given to students in the plaiting, weaving and spinning of coarse fibres and to boys in cabinet making. A Hobbies Club is also run in conjunction with the Handicraft Centre in the evening and is well attended.

(b) Public Assistance is administered through the Outdoor Relief Committee, of which the Social Welfare Officer is the Chairman. Recipients of

Outdoor Relief during the year numbered 891 persons and the expenditure for the period was \$30,271.26.

The Gann Rest House, a night shelter for homeless men operated by the Salvation Army, accommodated 8,634 men during the year; this shows a considerable increase as against 5,811 in 1947, the average being 719 as against 494 for the year 1947. The upkeep of this institution was met by a grant of \$720 from Government and \$231.47 from the Public Assistance Board and Lodgers fee of \$223.00. Sleeping accommodation is free, but a charge of two cents is made for tea in the morning.

During the year the Boys Training School the only institution for Juveniles in the Colony had to be closed at short notice. The return of the inmates to their homes caused an immediate increase in child delinquency. During the year some 195 cases were brought before the courts against juveniles. Wide use had to be made of the probation system as there was no institution to which to send them. Efforts are being made to re-open this institution in the very near future.

Chapter VIII: Legislation

Antibiotics

With a view to safeguarding the community against the evil effects resulting from the misuse of antibiotics, this Ordinance establishes a Committee charged with controlling the importation, storage, distribution, sale and use of antibiotics. The Committee is empowered to enter premises to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Ordinance.

Fisheries

This Ordinance consolidates the law relating to fisheries and gives the Governor in Council power to impose an export duty on fish, such duty not to exceed five cents a pound. In the case of crawfish and lobsters the duty on whole weight is fixed at one-third of that on tail weight.

Co-operative Societies

Ordinance No. 4 of 1948 makes provision, on the usual lines, for the formation of Co-operative Societies and for the regulation of their operations.

Entry Tax on Goods

This Ordinance imposes a tax at the rate of one per centum of the value of goods imported into the Colony, with a maximum tax of ten cents. This enactment repeals the Package Tax Ordinance which imposed a tax of a specified amount on all packages irrespective of their sizes and of the values of their contents.

Banking and Insurance Companies Licence Duty

This Ordinance requires payment of a licence duty by all insurance companies and not only, as hitherto, by companies carrying on fire insurance business.

Land Acquisition

This is an amending Ordinance the object of which is to remove any doubt as to the power compulsorily to acquire land which is required by a corporation, company or person for a purpose which is likely to prove useful to the public or a substantial class or section thereof.

Marketing Board

Ordinance No. 11 of 1948 establishes a Marketing Board of seven members with power to trade and deal in, *inter alia*, feeding stuffs for livestock, seeds, fertilisers and such commodities as will facilitate the operations of producers and help in processing and marketing products of the Colony. The funds of the Board consist of moneys accruing from its operations and moneys appropriated from public funds with the approval of the Legislative Council.

Chapter IX: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament 'in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law' passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed 'District Courts') are established in each of the five magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who is *ex-officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding \$100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a Magistrate, District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of Magistrates and District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The number of civil suits issued in the District Court (Civil Jurisdiction) was 515 and, in addition, there were 12 claims for compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1942. A total of \$2,368.10 was awarded to the dependants of the deceased workmen in 2 of the claims, and a total sum of \$2,833.26 was awarded in the remaining 10 claims for partial incapacity.

The total number of criminal and quasi-criminal cases dealt with in the Summary Courts was 1,921 in Belize and 852 in the out-districts, classified as follows:

	<i>Belize</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Homicide	6	2
Offences against the person	119	86
Offences against property	363	65
Malicious injury to Property	—	1
Praedial larceny	13	5
Other crimes	21	27
Offences under Labour Laws	2	4
Offences against Laws relating to Revenue, Municipal Road and Social Economy ..	196	257
Petty offences	1,201	405
	<hr/> 1,921 <hr/>	<hr/> 852 <hr/>

POLICE

Composition

In 1948 the British Honduras Police Force consisted of 1 Superintendent, 2 Assistant Superintendents and 190 other ranks. Of this amount 168 were employed on regular police duties and 22 on immigration work. Of the 193 members of the Force 168 were born in British Honduras. The Force has its Headquarters in Belize and 120 men are employed at Headquarters. The remaining members of the Force are split up manning 5 District Head Stations and 20 Sub-stations, all of the latter having only one man in each. Police buildings generally are old and antiquated, but are gradually being replaced. Three new sub-stations were built during the year, two as replacements at Douglas and Mullins River and one additional sub-station at Santa Elena. The building formerly known as the Roosevelt Hotel building which adjoins the Police Compound in Belize was acquired by the department and at the close of the year was being renovated prior to being put into use as extra sleeping and messing accommodation and offices. This building will be completed during 1949 and will greatly relieve the present congested Barracks and Office accommodation of Headquarters. In many districts the Police, besides their normal duties, operate the local telephone system and Post Office, and carry out the duties of school officers. This is particularly true in the case of the sub-stations. On account of the scattered positions of the Police Stations, a great deal of patrol work is done by single men on foot, on horseback and by dorey. The Police has 21 horses, thinly distributed throughout the colony, and many of the stations have either a paddling or sailing dorey attached to them, but transportation, especially in the case of the District Stations and sub-stations, is very difficult.

Prevention and Suppression of Crime

Lectures and parades are regularly taken by the officers and N.C.O's of the the Force, but the lack of a proper training depot is keenly felt. Three N.C.O's were given a course of training in Jamaica during the year. This consisted

of a course in Court Work, Traffic Work and Social Welfare Work respectively. Fingerprinting apparatus ordered during the previous year arrived and a Fingerprint Bureau has been established. The Fingerprint Record file in connection with this is gradually being increased and has already proven its value. Although started late in the year, a case was made at the last session of the Supreme Court and a conviction obtained. This is the first time that a person has been convicted in the colony by the use of his fingerprint in evidence. The Force has a Prisoner's Van, a Police motor car, a Station Waggon and 6 motorcycles. District Head Stations are supplied with a motorcycle in such cases where they have roads in their particular area, and the motorcycles are issued principally for traffic control and traffic checks. Due to the increased number of traffic and the opening of the Belize-Cayo Road, the volume of this work has been increasing steadily. The Force has two motor launches which are used both in the rivers and on the sea. These are exceedingly useful in the prevention and suppression of crime, and as a means of communicating with those portions of the colony which are not connected to Belize by road. Both these launches are very old, and as a result, are constantly breaking down and having to be repaired. New launches are badly needed and it is hoped that the department may be able to secure one or more when these present launches have reached the stage beyond repair. Mounted patrols in the districts do useful work and are particularly useful in getting about to the various villages in which there is no Police Station.

Prevalence of Crime

There was an increase in crime generally over the same period for 1948 and these are as follows:

There were 5 cases of murder, 4 of attempted murder and 6 of manslaughter; grievous harm to the person 182 cases, an increase of 16. Dangerous drugs 21, showed a marked increase of 14. Praedial larceny with 16 cases for the year showed an increase of 4, and stealing with a figure of 273 involving 335 persons increased by 35. Gambling (local lotteries) decreased from 76 to 49 involving 60 persons. House-breaking 27, showed an increase of 7. Traffic offences decreased by 31 to a figure of 231 cases for the year. Minor offences dropped from 920 to 862 involving 1,113 persons with a decrease of 58 over the previous year's figures. A total of 2,427 cases were brought before the Courts by the Police involving 2,553 persons. Of this amount 2,129 persons were convicted, 162 were acquitted, *nolle prosequi* in 10 cases was entered and 126 were otherwise dealt with. The 22 men doing immigration work checked in 9,284 passengers into the colony and checked out 9,266 departing passengers. 23 persons were prosecuted on charges against the Immigration Laws, 595 aircraft arrived in the colony and 569 sea vessels during the same period.

PRISONS

The authorized staff of the Prison Department comprises a Superintendent, a Clerk & Storekeeper, a Senior Warder, a Matron and sixteen warders and seven temporary warders.

Of the six prisons in the Colony, the prison at Belize is the principal. It is used to accommodate all prisoners sentenced for periods over three months. It consists of seventy-eight cells with a female wing of six cells. The prisons in the out-districts are situated in the Towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Punta Gorda and El Cayo. These prisons are staffed by the police personnel; the senior non-commissioned officer being the keeper of prison. District prisons are under the control of the District Commissioner subject to the Superintendent of Prisons.

The figure of 730 persons received into the prisons represents an increase of 163 over the previous year.

There is inadequate accommodation to secure separation of juvenile offenders and they are kept as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under the age of sixteen years who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at the Airport Camp. This school was temporarily closed due to an emergency measure in the early part of the year. Plans for the construction of a new school in the Cayo District is in progress. A part time Probation Officer appointed under the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1934, and the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932, supervises convicted juveniles.

At the Principal Prison, the trades of Carpentry, Cabinet work, Tailoring, Mattress-making, Baking, Shoe-making, Book-binding, Tin-smithing and Fibre-craft weaving are taught.

The daily average number of prisoners set to work was eighty-five and their hours of labour averaged eight. Certain gangs of prisoners are employed outside the Prison Compound, cutting grass and growth around government buildings and other government property.

Female prisoners are employed on fibre-beating, washing and mending prisoners' clothes and the production of coconut oil.

Chapter X: Public Utilities

Public utilities in the Colony are confined to the provision of electricity and telephones. The chief electric power station is operated by the Government in Belize but the small Town Board of Corozal provides electric lighting for its own inhabitants.

The electrical supply system in Belize is three wire direct current, 220 and 110 volts, using overhead lines on poles provided from local pine. Current is supplied by four direct-connected, diesel-driven generating sets of British manufacture, using rotary balancers for the mid-wire. Fuel oil costs twenty-three cents and lubricating oil ninety-eight cents for each imperial gallon; the total cost of oil in 1948 was \$34,145.

Charges for electric current are:

(a) for lighting:

first 50 kw. 20 cents per kw.

over 50 kw. 15 cents per kw.

- (b) for domestic power:
8 cents per kw.
(c) for industrial power:
3 cents to 7 cents per kw.

Consumers number over 2,600.

Ice is manufactured by the Electrical Department by a five-ton plant of British make and to supply the demand for ice it has been necessary also to operate hired plant of smaller capacity for the past few years. Approximate sales of ice during 1948 were 3,894,610 lb. at a rate of half a cent per lb.

TELEPHONES

The telephones are of the magneto type of American manufacture. Overhead cables use the poles provided for the electric wires; the airport, which is ten miles from Belize, is connected by means of a metallic circuit. In Belize there are four 150-line manual switchboards but the towns in the districts have smaller equipment. The trunk lines are copperweld single conductors using ground return. They are:

Belize—Maskall, Orange Walk, Corozal, Consejo	..	109	miles
Belize—Roaring Creek, Cayo, Benque Viejo	.. ..	95	"
Belize—Stann Creek, Sittet, Monkey River	.. ..	90	"
Belize—Hill Bank (Belize Estate & Produce Co. Ltd.)		45	"

There are 498 telephones connected to the Belize Exchange and 119 telephones on the trunk lines.

Charges for telephones are:

Business	desk	\$12.00	each	quarter
	wall	\$11.50	"	"
Private	desk	\$ 7.00	"	"
	wall	\$ 6.50	"	"
Out-district telephones		\$ 7.50	"	"

Charges are:

- (a) for inland telegrams: two cents a word with a minimum charge of thirty cents.
(b) for trunk calls: forty cents for each five-minute period.

Chapter XI: Communications

Up to a decade ago, almost the only means of communication in the Colony were the sea, the rivers and a number of bush trails. It is inevitable that these means will continue to play an important part in the life of the Colony; they must be used for the transportation of supplies to the settlements on the banks of the rivers, for no road scheme could contemplate linking up all the scattered communities.

RIVERS

The Belize River, which has always been the most important for logging purposes, is navigable, almost to the frontier with Guatemala, by doreys

and other light craft for the greater part of the year, but, at all times, considerable ingenuity must be exercised to negotiate the numerous 'runs'.

THE SEA

Coastal villages in Southern Districts are served by a twice-weekly sailing from Belize of a small motor vessel, which, once a week also connects with the port of Puerto Cortes in Honduras to deliver and collect much of the surface foreign mails of the Colony. Regular services are similarly maintained to the Northern District settlements. Ships of the United Fruit Co. transport provisions and merchandise every two or three weeks from New Orleans but the passenger service which operated before the war has not, as yet, been resumed. Small schooners provide a regular weekly service between Belize and the Florida port of Tampa. Ships from the United Kingdom have begun to call at monthly intervals, and there are fortnightly sailings between Jamaica and the Colony. The ships entering the Colony in 1948 numbered 810 with a tonnage of 237,683 compared with 935 in 1947 with a tonnage of 189,905.

Four steamship lines operated to the Colony during the year, particulars being as follows:—

<i>Line</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Frequency of Call</i>
United Fruit Co.	New Orleans, U.S.A.	Monthly
T. & J. Harrison Ltd. London	Liverpool and London	Monthly
Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.	Europe via Cristobal, Puerto Cortez and Puerto Barrios	Monthly
Cayman Island Shipping Co.	Kingston, Jamaica	Fortnightly

Of the above lines only the ships of the Cayman Island Shipping Co. take passengers. Passengers proceeding to the United States and places beyond travel by air. There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics. No mail contract has been entered into by any of the lines.

ROADS

Road-making is a difficult and costly process in most areas; in coastal districts swamps are the chief obstacle; inland, dense undergrowth is a difficulty. Until roads reach the hills of the interior, where quarries can be opened, stone is not easily obtained.

Prior to 1935, there were only thirty-five miles of 'all-weather' roads in the Colony which were considered at that date to be suitable for motor traffic. Today there are 226 miles of main roads (including the recently completed Belize to Cayo road) and 51 miles of feeder roads, all suitable for motor traffic. In addition there are approximately 48 miles of cart roads, some of which can be used by motor cars during the dry season, and 154 miles of government maintained bush trails.

AIR SERVICES

The Airport for the Colony was constructed some ten miles to the west of Belize in 1943 and 1944, and the cost was met from a Colonial Development

and Welfare Grant. The airfield is officially named 'Stanley Field' to mark the association of Colonel Oliver Stanley, who as Secretary of State for the Colonies 'opened' the Terminal Building in January, 1945.

There is a grass airfield at Corozal which is available to light aircraft only. The one at Cayo has been officially closed. A landing strip privately owned by the Belize Estate & Produce Company is located at Mango Creek near Point Placencia in the Stann Creek District. Several flights were made to this area during the year by Transportes Aereo Centro Americano (TACA).

No scheduled local flights occurred during 1948. However, in connection with investigations in the crawfish industry, Aerial Sea Food and Catalina Traders Co., carried out a number of flights to the Cayes.

As a result of Guatemala closing her border TACA had to suspend international flights. In consequence there are no scheduled direct flights to the U.S.A. Later, TACA suspended all services and it was not until November 15th that they resumed flights. They now operate a thrice weekly service to San Pedro Sula using Lockheed 14's.

British West Indian Airways, formerly British International Airways Limited, maintain a weekly service from and to Kingston, Jamaica, with Lockheed Lodestar equipment.

Transportes Aereo Mexicano, S.A. (TAMSA) operate a bi-weekly scheduled passenger and mail service between Belize, Chetumal and Merida whence a connecting plane to New Orleans is available.

Skytrain Airways Inc., an international air cargo line, made a number of direct charter flights from New Orleans during the year. There were also a number of itinerants who stopped for refuelling.

Movements of international flights to and from Belize number 1,206.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There are 30 post offices in the Colony. In 1948, the number of articles dealt with was 825,321. The value of internal money and postal order business amounted to \$81,699, and to \$140,137 for external transactions.

Telephone offices, which also transact telegraph business, number 72. The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Chetumal, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with other countries.

There is a wireless station in Belize for the transaction daily of radio-telegraph business with stations in other countries—Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City, Mexico City and New Orleans. Transmitting and receiving equipment, which provide aeronautical telecommunications service, are also installed at the Belize Airport. Excluding messages relating to the conduct of the service, weather reports, and press messages, 13,978 radio telegrams were transmitted and 14,101 were received in 1948.

Items of news interest and forecast for the Western Caribbean are broadcast daily at 12.30 p.m. from the Belize Wireless Station, ZIK2, on a wavelength of 28.31 metres. Storm and hurricane warnings are broadcast during the hurricane season from June to November.

The charges on radiograms to Great Britain, Eire, British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Canada, Newfoundland and to all points in the United States of America are as follows:

Ordinary (Full Rate)	..	..	per word	20 cents	
Code (C D E)	..	..	..	12 cents	
Deferred (L C)	..	..	..	10 cents	
Night Letter (N L T)	..	..	..	6½ cents	Minimum 25 words
(G L T)	..	..	..	6½ cents	Minimum 12 words
Press U.K. (Press)	..	..	..	2 cents	
U.S.A. (Press)	..	..	..	6½ cents	

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works other than roads completed during the year included the construction of quarters for the Agricultural Officer at Baking Pot Estate near Cayo; Quarters and Office for Customs Officer and Quarters for Ferryman at Santa Helena, two quarters for Junior Officers at Stann Creek and two at Punta Gorda; new Police Stations at Douglas and Mullins River, Quarters for Rural Nurse at Progreso, purchase and renovation of the 'Roosevelt Hotel' to provide increased barrack accommodation for Police Department; construction of a Drying floor at Orange Walk for the Department of Agriculture and the laying of a Hard Standing in front of the Terminal Building, Belize Airport.

Colonial Development and Welfare projects in hand during the year included the construction of the Belize Cayo Road, the construction of the Cayo Suspension Bridge, the construction of the Belize Hector Creek Road and the provision of a temporary water supply for Belize.

The bituminous surfacing of the Belize-Cayo Road, was completed. On the Cayo Suspension Bridge the two piers were completed and the abutments including the anchorage chambers completed to road level. The steel work for one of the 100' approach spans was assembled in position.

Construction of the Belize-Hector Creek Road which reduces the distance to Cayo by 12 miles made good progress. 90% of the earthworks was completed and five miles of bituminous surface at the Hector Creek end was laid.

On the temporary Water Supply for Belize, the engine and pump for the well at 11 mile was purchased and installed and six miles of 6" water main laid and jointed.

Communications

A new Ferry was constructed for use over the Rio Hondo at Santa Helena giving direct communication between the Colony and Mexico.

Chapter XII: Lands and Survey

Twenty sheets of the aerial survey of approximately 5,000 sq. miles of the northern section of the Colony have been produced in one colour as a provisional edition on a scale of 1/50,000. These sheets have been in great demand by the various Departments of the Colony and several complete sets have been supplied to the Evans Commission and the military authorities.

A limited number of these sheets have also been supplied to the general public.

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

British Honduras, 5,700 miles from the United Kingdom and 600 miles west of its better-known sister colony of Jamaica, lies on the mainland of Central America facing eastwards across the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 8,598 square miles, it is approximately the same size as Wales, and nearly twice the size of Jamaica. The Colony lies between North latitudes of $18^{\circ} 29' 5''$ and $15^{\circ} 53' 55''$ and between West longitudes of $89^{\circ} 9' 22''$ and $88^{\circ} 10'$. To the North and North-west, the frontier with Mexico is formed by the River Hondo. The frontier with the only other neighbouring republic, Guatemala, is, in the south, the River Sarstoon from the Gracias a Dios Falls to the sea, while a line drawn from these falls to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River and thence due North to the Mexican frontier on the Hondo forms the western boundary. The greatest length of the Colony from North to South is about 174 miles with a greatest width from East to West of approximately 68 miles. The coast of British Honduras is very well sheltered from the rough seas of the Caribbean by an almost continuous line of coral reefs and 'cays' lying at distances of from ten to forty miles from the mainland. The harbour of Belize is almost surrounded by sheltering reefs—a factor which has done much to promote the growth of the port as the most important in the Colony. North of Belize, coastal waters are unusually shallow with a general depth of not more than six feet. At Commerce Bight, three miles south of the town of Stann Creek, the deepest water in the Colony is found and until the pier was destroyed by a severe storm in 1941, medium sized, ocean going, vessels were able to berth alongside. For the most part, coastal lands are low and swampy and the northern part of the Colony is flat, large areas of land rising very little above sea level.

In the area south of Belize, there is a central mountain massif of a general elevation of 2,000—3,000 feet above sea level, comprising on the east, the Maya Mountain Range, and on the west, an area of pine ridge over 120 square miles in extent. The Maya Mountains, which include the Cockscorn Spur, possessing a peak of over 3,700 feet, are by no means fully explored, and difficulties of terrain are such as to make expeditions for detailed survey very costly.

The pine ridge provides some of the best scenery in the Colony, and the large tracts of open space suggest attractions for the tourist. Remoteness from rivers and roads would render the extraction of the pine an uneconomic proposition.

Numerous rivers, not all of which are easily navigable by any kind of craft, provided until recent times almost the only means of communication with the interior: the most important, the Belize River, can be negotiated in all but the very dry months by specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, for 120 miles upstream. No thorough survey of the soil of the Colo-

ny has yet been made but it is believed that there are several uncultivated areas where profitable agriculture could be carried on, and there are similar hopes that a geological survey would not be found unproductive.

CLIMATE

In its climate, British Honduras is certainly favoured. Trade winds, blowing from the sea over a great part of the year, keep temperatures down, in coastal areas, to a level below that of such cities as New York and Washington in the summer months. Even in the hotter months of May to October the shade temperatures do not go over 96°. Inland, in the Western District, day temperatures may exceed 100° but cooler nights are experienced. During cold spells, which may occur between November and February, the temperature may go down in Belize to 50° though the mean for this period is nearer 70°.

Rainfall shows some sharp annual variations but the mean over the last five years is sixty inches in Belize, which is also typical of what would be regarded as a normal year. Average rainfall in the North is no more than about sixty inches while in the Southern District the yearly average is nearer 175 inches.

The climate of the Colony, which in the cooler months is particularly delightful, is quite suitable for people used to temperate zones and little, if any, impairment to health is suffered from prolonged residence. The high 3,000 feet plateau of the mountain pine ridge is quite suitable as a hill station, a project which may be realized when the major road programme is accomplished.

Chapter II: History of British Honduras

The incompleteness and the paucity of many of the records from which the history of British Honduras has to be gathered make research fascinating, but, at times, rather exasperating. The humidity of the climate has not favoured the storage of documents, but such as remain provide stories with a Ballantyne flavour of adventure.

Of the early settlement of the Colony by Maya Indians, much remains to be told; but there is ample evidence of considerable Mayan settlements all over the Colony which indicate that a population much greater than that existing at present was supported, though on a much lower standard. For the archaeologist, there is wealth of material to be unearthed.

Here, we are concerned with the history of the Colony following the discoveries in the Western Hemisphere in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Columbus is thought to have sailed down the coast in 1502, when he set out from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies.

The first Britons to set foot in the country are believed to have sailed from Jamaica about 1638. Finding abundant supplies of logwood, then much in demand for the manufacture of dyes in Europe, they began a settle-

ment which was maintained with fluctuating fortunes through 150 years of struggle and strife with the Spanish. It appeared that friendly relations and treaties between Britain and Spain made no difference to the local struggle and it was not until 1798 that an end to the skirmishes could be written.

By 1670 when Spain made a treaty ceding to Britain all lands in the West Indies and in any part of America held by the British, the settlement, near the mouth of the Belize River and at St. George's Cay, an island some ten miles east of the river mouth, included 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. About this time, the prosperity of the settlement was brought to the notice of King Charles II by a report of the Governor of Jamaica that it had 'increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies'.

An early reference to slaves was included in a report of an attack by the Spanish some distance inland at Labouring Creek in 1754, when it was said that, principally by their efforts, the raiders were repulsed. In 1779, the Spanish seem to have had some success when they captured and carried away a great many of the settlers at St. George's Cay. Subsequently, after suffering ill-treatment in Mexico and Cuba, the captives were allowed to return. A further development occurred in 1786, when, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain gave up her claims to the Mosquito Coast in return for Spanish recognition of the existing settlement in British Honduras, but this arrangement seems either not to have been brought to the notice of, or to have been disregarded by, the Spanish in the Caribbean area, as the attacks continued. In their final effort in 1798, they appear to have employed larger forces than ever before and little attention seems to have been given to achieving surprise for the local settlers had time for a number of parleys and to gather together their forces inferior in point of fighting strength. The action at St. George's Cay was decisive and final and, today, the anniversary is honoured by a public holiday accompanied by patriotic celebrations.

Events in Mexico from 1848 to 1867 had their repercussions in British Honduras, for the rebellion of the Indians of Yucatan in 1849 caused many Spaniards to settle in the northern part of the Colony. When in 1867 Mexico finally overthrew the Spanish administration, Indians made repeated raids into the Colony until a garrison of Imperial Troops finally made such incursions unremunerative.

From the very first beginnings of the settlement, until recent times, a greater measure of freedom to manage their own affairs appears to have been accorded to the people of British Honduras than was given to the settlers in other colonies. Until 1786, persons were appointed at an annual public meeting to act as Magistrates, on whom the responsibility of discharging executive and judicial functions devolved.

The King in 1765 gave a 'constitution to the people' founded on their ancient customs, the most important of which were legislating by public meetings and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people. Admiral Sir William Burnaby, accompanied by Captain Cook,

was sent to the Colony to codify the laws and customs and to arrange for the inhabitants of the Colony to be put into full possession of their lands and associated rights.

Following the declaration of the settlement as a Colony in 1862, a Lieutenant-Governor, subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica, was appointed, and in 1870 he became the President of a newly constituted Legislative Assembly, the composition of which included five official, and not less than four unofficial members.

Independence of Jamaica came in 1884 with the appointment of a Governor and a Commander-in-Chief.

The economic disaster, following a hurricane which overwhelmed Belize and the adjacent countryside in 1931, necessitated the seeking of the aid of the Imperial Exchequer and the subsequent surrender of the control of finance. As a result, major changes in the constitution were made in 1935 by the passing of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, and, after amendments to this Ordinance in 1938 and 1945, the Legislative Council now consists of the Governor, as President, three official and ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated and six elected from five constituencies. The Governor was given power, in certain circumstances, to assent to any bill which the Council failed to pass.

The main economy of British Honduras has been based, since the first settlement, on her forests. By the time the demand for logwood declined, the mahogany tree had already become a more profitable export and it has remained for a century the principal forest product. Other exports from the forest have centred upon cedar, pine and the sapodilla tree, from which chicle gum is extracted. Coconuts have also been an important export.

With a forest tradition ingrained in him, the average British Honduran has not taken heed of exhortations to settle on the land, and indeed the experiences of some of the settlers have not been encouraging, for most of them have only eked out a meagre living. Bananas were flourishing when the Stann Creek railway project was begun in 1905 to improve transportation, but an imported disease has relegated banana growing to an insignificant position.

The citrus industry in the Stann Creek Valley is now well established and although during the latter half of the war a government subsidy to growers became necessary, due to temporary loss of markets, the original position had been regained toward the end of 1946. A sugar factory, erected in the sugar cane growing area in the northern plain in 1935, has not been productive of a high grade sugar, and it has not supplied, in entirety, the requirements of the Colony. Rum distilleries in the same neighbourhood produce a spirit which has only a local market.

The social development of the peoples of British Honduras has not, on the whole, been characterized by the sudden spurts which appear to have marked progress in other countries; rather, to the casual observer, has it been by almost imperceptible change year by year. The Education Ordinance of 1892

established a Board of Education, with the Governor as Chairman, to promote education, to provide for the administration of schools, and to allot grants in aid from funds voted by the legislature. In 1915 the Governor with the consent of the Board was empowered to declare compulsory school attendance areas. Noteworthy improvements in the standard of teaching recently have followed the provision of better training facilities and stimulation has come from the institution of annual Teachers' Vacation Courses.

Public Health appears to have received its chief impetus in the latter half of the last century, but administrators of the Public Health Ordinances are always somewhat discouraged by the absence of proper water supplies and sewerage systems. An improved water supply for Belize is being installed.

It was not until 1945 that a Social Welfare Officer was appointed, and he was gravely handicapped by the absence of any voluntary organizations on which he could found the nucleus of a Social Welfare Scheme. There were no handicrafts, no co-operative or marketing unions, and no village community centres; but there were Credit Unions, the first of which was established only a short time before he arrived. With the return from Jamaica of an officer sent for handicraft training, handicrafts were introduced to the main institutions, the Prison, the Mental Hospital and the Industrial School for boys, which has been established in the Stann Creek Valley in 1926. With the resignation of the first Social Welfare Officer, a Social Welfare and Development Officer was appointed and social Welfare work was associated with the development of the Colony.

Chapter III: Administration

The administration and government of the Colony devolve upon the Governor and an Executive Council, constituted by Royal Instructions given in 1936 and in 1945, and providing for three *ex-officio* members and of such persons, as the Governor may appoint in accordance with the instructions. At the close of the year, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary were the *ex-officio* members and there were four other appointments. Appointments are for a period of three years.

The Legislative Council, in its present form, is constituted by the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance of 1935 together with the amendment Ordinance of 1945; the composition, with the Governor as President, being three *ex-officio* members (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General) ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions received in 1936 and 1945, and six elected from five constituencies, there being two members for the Belize District.

All questions are decided by a majority of the votes given, the Governor having an original, and also a casting vote, but of the greatest interest to Un-

official Members of the Council is the provision in the 1935 enactment of what are described as the Governor's reserve powers, which, briefly, give him the authority to declare his assent to any bill, resolution or vote, which he considers necessary in the interests of public order or good government, or to secure detailed control of the finances of the Colony, while financial assistance is being received from His Majesty's Exchequer. In making any such declaration, the Governor is required to inform the Council of his reasons and to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor may refuse to give his assent to any bill passed by the Legislative Council, or he may reserve his assent for the signification of the approval of His Majesty; no law is effective until it has received his assent.

The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice and a Magistrate for the City of Belize. In the out-districts judicial functions are exercised by the District Commissioners. In addition, two or more Justices of the Peace may exercise the judicial functions of a District Commissioner. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice, who is appointed by Letters Patent under the Public Seal of the Colony by the Governor. One of the officers of the Court is the Registrar General, who has power to administer oaths and take solemn declarations, or affirmations in lieu of oaths.

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor by Warrant under his hand and under Public Seal; they may be appointed for the whole Colony, or for a district, or for a portion of a district. Similarly they may be removed by warrant.

Administratively the Colony is divided into five districts, of which the Belize District, containing the capital, has the largest population. The other districts are the Northern with headquarters at Corozal, the Western, whose administrative headquarters are at El Cayo, the Stann Creek District administered from Stann Creek town, and the Toledo District in the South with Punta Gorda as the only important town. The Commissioner for each district, excepting Belize, exercises the prescribed judicial functions and acts, at the same time, as Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector of Customs and District Postmaster. Except in one district the Commissioner is also chairman of the local Town Board.

Town Boards are constituted under the District Town Boards Ordinance of 1938, which gives power to the Governor in Council to add to, or delete from, the list of towns to which the Ordinance applies. Boards may be either wholly nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected: nominated members are appointed by the Governor.

A Town Board is required to meet each quarter and at such other times as required by its rules or when convened by the Chairman, who is appointed either by the Governor or from one of their number as he may direct. It is entrusted with the duty of attending to the good government of the town, and it may establish markets, slaughter-houses, baths and washhouses, may provide for public lighting, the naming and numbering of its streets, and carry on such other duties as the Governor orders by notice in the *Gazette*.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

The standard Imperial Weights and Measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, which places on the Superintendent of Police the duties of inspection of weights and measures at least once in every three months.

The legal standards to be used are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) for articles sold by weight | Imperial troy and avoirdupois |
| (b) for capacity (liquids and dry goods) | Imperial gallon |
| (c) for capacity (goods usually sold by the bushel) | Bushel of eight Imperial gallons or 80 pounds avoirdupois |
| (d) for extension | Standard yard measure of 36 inches. |

A copy or model of the standards must be kept in the office of each District Commissioner and inspections are to be made at least once in every three months.

Chapter V: Newspapers and Periodicals

There are two newspapers published in the Colony, the *Daily Clarion*, a small one sheet evening issue and the *Belize Billboard*, a bi-weekly issue.

For official purposes, the *Government Gazette* is issued weekly and is available to private subscribers on payment of an annual subscription of five dollars.

There are no other regular publications and, in the main, people of British Honduras rely upon the wireless set and certain weekly American publications for their news of the world.

Chapter VI: Bibliography

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The Colony of British Honduras, its Resources and Prospects. By W. A. Morris, M.A., F.L.S., F.R.G.S. London, 1883.

Reports on the Forests of British Honduras, with Suggestions for a Far-reaching Forest Policy. By C. Hummel. London, Crown Agents for the Colonies, 1921.

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Report on the Investigations at Lubantuum, British Honduras, 1926. By T. A. Joyce, M.A. London, Royal Anthropological Institute, 1926.

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Some Spanish Entradas. By Doris Zemurray Stone. New Orleans (Reprint from Middle American Research Series, Publication No. 4 *Middle American Papers*), Department of Middle American Research, The Tulane University of Louisiana, 1932.

Excavations at San Jose, British Honduras. By J. Eric Thompson. 1939, Washington, Carnegie Institution Publication No. 506 (includes an Index of Maya Sites in British Honduras).

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Archaeological Investigations in the Southern Cayo District, British Honduras. Publication No. 301, 1931. Both by J. Eric Thompson. Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Geology of British Honduras. By Leslie H. Ower, D.I.C., F.G.S., F.R.G.S. 1928, Belize, Government Printing Office.

Report on Belize Harbour and some of the Rivers of British Honduras. By G. W. Dodds. 1936, Belize, Government Printing Office.

Remarks on a Passage from the River Belize in the Bay of Honduras to Merida, The Capital of the Province of Yucatan in the Spanish West Indies. By Lt. Cook (London, 1769). Facsimile reprint, 1935 (Tulane University of Louisiana), Wetzel, Printing Inco. Midameres Press, New Orleans, U.S.A.

Late Ceramic Horizons at Benque Viejo, British Honduras. By J. Eric Thompson. With notes on 'Classification of Painted Wares' by Anna O. Shepard. Reprinted from Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publication 528. Washington, 15th December, 1940.

Living Treasure. By Ivan T. Sanderson. Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York, 1941.

Brief Sketch of British Honduras. Revised by A. H. Anderson. 1944, Government Printer, Belize.

LIST OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT

PRINTING OFFICE, BRITISH HONDURAS

\$

1. Agricultural Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
2. Customs Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
3. Education Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
4. Forestry Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
5. Labour Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
6. Medical Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
7. Survey Report (Annual)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
8. Financial Statements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
9. Sessional Papers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
10. Minutes of the Legislative Council (bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
11. Ordinances (Bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
12. „ (Single copies)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
13. S. R. & Os. (Bound vols.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
14. S. R. & Os. (Single copies)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
15. Brief Sketch of British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
16. Table of Distances in British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
17. Dodd's Report on the Belize Harbour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
18. Archives of British Honduras (Per volume)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.00
„ „ „ (Set of three volumes)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.00
19. Board of Education Rules	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
20. Post Office Guide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
21. Report of the Committee of Nutrition on the Colony of British Honduras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
22. Blue Book	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.00
23. Customs Tariff—Ordinance 1 of 1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
24. Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part I..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
25. Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire—Part II	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65

	\$
26. West India Royal Commission Report	1.75
27. ,, ,, ,, Recommendations ..	.10
28. West India Royal Commission Report—Statement of Actions Taken on Recommendations .. .. .	.50
29. C. Hummel's Forestry Report	1.00
30. Housing in the West Indies .. .. .	.30
31. Enquiry into the Educational System of British Honduras ..	1.50
32. Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure	1.00
33. Government Gazette—single copies .. .. .	.15
subscription per year	5.00
34. Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of British Honduras .. .. .	.25
35. Cost of Education .. .. .	.10
36. Social Welfare (a series of nine broadcasts made by the B.B.C.)	.10
37. Report of the Development Planning Committee, 1946 ..	1.00

MAPS

1. Cadastral Plan of Belize, 200 feet to 1 inch.
2. Sectional Map of the Colony, 4 miles to 1 inch.
3. Small Scale Map, suitable for reports.

A limited number of maps indicating annual and monthly rainfall, geology, alienation of Crown land, etc., is available.

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Bindery



*Brit. Britain
Colonial Office*

COLONIAL REPORTS

British Honduras

OCT 26 1950
1949
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES



LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

THE SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1949. It is hoped that the territories for which 1949 Reports are being published will be as listed on cover page 3.

REPORT ON BRITISH HONDURAS 1949.

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PART I

General Review

1949 proved to be a very difficult year for British Honduras. The most disastrous drought in living memory, coupled with a decline in the mahogany and chicle industries, led to the widespread distress and unemployment, particularly in the Belize, Cayo and Northern Districts. Unemployment relief work was started in these districts in August and continued up to the end of the year. When the pound was devalued against the United States dollar in September, the currency of British Honduras alone in the Colonial Empire remained unaltered, and the British Honduras dollar, continuing at parity with the United States dollar, changed in value against sterling from \$4.03 to \$2.80 to the £. While this reacted favourably upon the cost of living, sterling investors reduced or suspended their activities owing to the unfavourable rate of exchange, and the development and economic life of the Colony were brought to a standstill. This inevitably aggravated the already existing unemployment situation referred to above, and the attempt to hold the situation had to be abandoned in face of the dire effects on the economy of the Colony, the general lack of confidence in the high rate of exchange of the dollar, and the blighting of all prospects of future development by which alone the Colony can resume a healthy economic life. Accordingly on the last day of the year the British Honduras dollar was linked to sterling at the rate of \$4.00 to the £. This measure had to be put into effect by an alteration in the British Honduras Currency Notes Ordinance. The Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council all voted against the bill, and the Governor was therefore compelled, with reluctance, to declare the measure passed under the power conferred upon him by section 15 of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance (No. 13 of 1935).

In the early part of the year it seemed that an early start could be made with the institution of measures for the development of the Colony on the lines recommended in the Evans Commission Report, although, as already stated, these hopes were later set back by the devaluation crisis. The Secretary of State had announced at the end of 1948 that a sum of £2,000,000 had been set aside to enable an early start to be made on some of the recommendations in the Evans Report for the development of British Guiana and British Honduras, and it was later ascertained that the British Honduras share of this sum was £850,000. Following a combined meeting of the Executive and Legislative Councils on the 14th February, the Governor appointed a body known as the British Honduras Development Board, the primary function of which is to bring under review and to integrate the various plans for the development of the Colony. The Board is constituted as follows:—

The Governor, Chairman
 The Colonial Secretary
 The Financial Secretary
 One Unofficial Member of Executive Council
 Two Unofficial Members of Legislative Council
 One Member nominated by the Belize City Council
 One Member nominated by the Marketing Board
 One Member nominated by the Chamber of Commerce.

It is the intention that the powers and duties of the Board shall be defined by statute, but initially it is felt that the Board can best operate on informal lines and that the question of legislation can be left over for later consideration.

The principal development schemes approved by the Secretary of State during the year were:—

	£
Reclamation of land north of Belize	1,750
Reconstruction of streets of Belize	3,200
Housing Scheme for Belize	10,000
Agricultural Development at Baking Pot Estate	19,450

In considering the use to be made of the sum of £850,000 made available for Evans development projects, the Development Board came to the conclusion that the greater part of these funds ought to be devoted to the improvement of the communications of the Colony. A sum of £500,000 was therefore earmarked for road development.

The Colonial Development Corporation examined a number of schemes, of which the most important were the building of an hotel in Belize, and the production of cocoa and bananas. The Corporation also investigated the possibility of large scale rice production on the lines recommended by Mr. Gerald Lacey, who visited the Colony specially to advise on this matter. By the end of the year the Corporation had not commenced operations in this field, but exploratory work was continuing.

The Government embarked during the year on an important policy of encouraging private development by the grant of exemption from customs duty and income tax concessions to approved development undertakings. These concessions are embodied in Statutory Instruments Nos. 53 and 54 of 1949.

Apart from developments in the Stann Creek Valley by the Citrus Company of British Honduras Ltd. among the more encouraging events was the application by and grant to the Gulf Oil Corporation of a licence to explore oil possibilities throughout the entire Colony and its adjacent waters. Actual operations, which had not begun by the end of the year, are to be conducted by the Bahamas Oil Corporation, a British subsidiary of Gulf.

The Constitutional Reform Commission completed its investigations except for a visit to Gallon Jug, which will be undertaken when possible.

Thereafter it is hoped that the report will not be long delayed. The Attorney General, who is Chairman of the Commission, left the Colony on vacation leave (subsequently on transfer) and his place as Chairman of the Commission has been taken by the Honourable W. H. Courtenay, O.B.E.

The dispute with Guatemala remained in a state of stalemate, but a debate which took place in the Legislative Council in July, deploring the adverse effects upon the development of the Colony arising out of the uncertainty caused in the minds of strangers by the Guatemalan Government's propaganda campaign, crystallized local feeling in the matter; and His Majesty's Government later made it absolutely clear in a Note to the Guatemalan Government that it was prepared to take the dispute to the International Court at the Hague on a legal basis only.

The following honours were conferred upon British Honduras residents:—

New Year

Mr. C. M. Staine, J.P., to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Company Sergeant Major W. P. Burrows, British Honduras Volunteer Guard, to be a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

King's Birthday

Mr. A. O. Longworth, Registrar General, to be a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. R. H. Garvey, C.M.G., M.B.E., arrived in the Colony and assumed duty on the 28th January.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

At a Census taken in April, 1946, the population of the Colony was 59,220, and at the end of 1949 it was estimated to be 65,354, comprising 28,722 males and 30,498 females. Intermixing is such that racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but it may be said that the Northern and Western Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of Spanish and Maya Indian peoples. In the Capital, the 'Creoles' (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority though there are a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and of Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States nationals. There is in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo, a predominance of Caribs but Maya Indians have some large settlements in the extreme South.

The estimated population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:

<i>District</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Area in Square Miles</i>	<i>Persons per Square Mile</i>
Belize	29,400	1,623	18.11
Northern	13,656	2,180	6.26
Stann Creek	6,970	840	8.29
Toledo	6,861	2,125	3.22
Cayo	8,467	1,830	4.62
<hr/>		<hr/>	
The Colony	65,354	8,598	7.60
<hr/>		<hr/>	

The population of the leading towns at the 1946 Census was as follows:

	<i>Persons</i>
Belize	21,886
Corozal	2,190
Orange Walk	1,395
Cayo	1,548
Benque Viejo	1,264
Stann Creek	3,414
Punta Gorda	1,375.

A review of the 1931 and 1946 census figures shows increases in the population of all the Districts except the Northern, which declined 3.81 per cent., although the preponderance of births over deaths from year to year during the intervening period would have led one to expect an increase. This position rather supports the general view of a trend to concentration in Belize due to the exodus, from the agriculturally important Northern District, of small-planters, who, it is common belief, have forsaken the land in search of more lucrative occupations. The slightest margin of increase is to be observed in the Toledo District (2.42 per cent.), which is no doubt due partly to abnormal death rates throughout the years 1931 to 1946, (which reached the alarming figure of 53.6 in 1945), and partly to migration from the District of its residents in search of employment.

Births per thousand of the population dropped from 39.68 in 1948 to 38.90. Deaths per thousand were recorded at 13.41 as against 13.63 in 1948. The infantile mortality rate is highest in the Toledo District with its large Maya population, which recorded rates of over 27 per cent. In 1944 and in 1945, but declined to just under 19 in 1946, to 16.5 in 1947 and further to 15.68 in 1948. The rate increased in 1949 and is recorded at 17.91. The lowest rate recorded is that of Cayo—6.75. The rates in the other Districts are as follows: Belize 8.09; Northern 12.10; Stann Creek 8.79 and for the Colony 10.48.

Chapter II: Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS

In British Honduras the employment available in the forest industries, the mainstay of the Colony's economy, is largely seasonal, timber extraction operations being principally confined to the first six months of the year when the dry weather permits logging over primitive roads, while chicle bleeding is carried out in the wet months, July to February, as rains induce a good flow of gum from the trees.

A statement of the particulars of the employment in the principal occupations on the 31st December, 1949, follows:—

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
PRIMARY PRODUCTION				
<i>Mahogany</i> Labourers	207	\$20.00 to \$23.00 per month plus rations at \$2.50 per week	50	Employment usually seasonal from October to June.
Tractor and Truck Drivers	35	\$60.00 to \$75.00 per month and rations at \$3.50 per week		
Other Workers	90	\$30.00 a month and rations at \$3.50 per week		
	332			
<i>Pine and other secondary woods</i> Labourers working in the forests at felling, etc.	196	\$1.60 a day		

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
Tractor and Truck Drivers	43	\$50.00 to \$65.00 a month	50	
Other Workers	18	\$1.50 per day		
<i>Chicle</i>	257			
Bleeders, Mudeteers and others	915	30¢ a lb. for Crown Gum 35¢ a lb. for Superior Gum	50	
	915			
<i>Agriculture</i>				
Cane Fields	195	\$1.00 a day	48	
	195			
SECONDARY PRODUCTION				
<i>Sawmills</i>				
Supervisors and clerical workers	66	\$2.75 to \$5.00 a day		
Machinery attendants and operators	143	\$2.00 to \$5.00 a day	56	
Labourers handling lumber	381	\$1.30 to \$1.80 a day		
	543			
<i>Factories and other Industrial Establishments</i>				
Aerated Water				
Males	32	\$2.50 to \$12.00 per week	45	
Females	31	do.		
Cigarettes				
Males	19	\$3.00 to \$14.00 per week		
Females	20	\$4.00 to \$12.00 per week		
Packing fresh grapefruit				
Males	76			
Females	51			✓
Canning grapefruit juice				
Males	124	\$1.20 to \$3.00 per day	48	
Females	42			
Ice				
Males	6	\$1.00 to \$1.50 a day	48	

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
Soap Males	12	\$9.00 to \$20.00 per week	45	
Females	1	\$8.00 per week		
Sugar Males	46	\$1.50 to \$2.75 a day	54	
Bakeries	45	\$3.00 to \$18.00 per week	50	
Blacksmith and repair machine shops	45	\$8.00 to \$25.00 per week		
Cabinet Shops	45	\$2.25 to \$3.00 per day	48	
Printing Establishments	40	\$3.00 to \$15.00 per week	48	
Shoe repairing & manufacturing shops	85	\$6.00 to \$24.00 per week	48	
Tailoring Establishments	46	\$2.50 to \$9.00 per week	48	
Tinsmith shops	5			
	771			
Boat Building & Repairing	75	15¢ to 47¢ per hour	48	
Public Works Dept.				
Road Labourers	746	\$1.58 to \$1.82 a day		
Lorry Drivers	49	\$2.32 to \$2.64 a day		
Carpenters and Painters	56	\$2.00 to \$3.68 a day		
Other Tradesmen	169	\$2.64 to \$4.32 a day	48	
	1,020			
SERVICES				
Transport of goods by sea				
(i) Handling general cargo	90	30¢ per hour and free food		Intermittent employment averaging 6 days a month
(ii) Stevedore handling logs for export	60	50¢ to 75¢ per hour		
(iii) Dock Labourers	75	29¢ per hour		
	225			

Industry or Occupation	*Number employed	Average Wage or earnings	Approximate average hours worked per week	Remarks
<i>Forest Department</i>				
<i>Labourers</i>				
Males	182	\$1.00 to \$1.68 a day	48	
Females	2	Average earnings		
	184	\$1.00 a day		
<i>Health Department</i>				
<i>Labourers</i>	35	\$1.45 to \$1.66 a day		
<i>Cartmen</i>	7	\$1.51 to \$1.92 a day	44	
<i>Vehicle Drivers</i>	3	\$2.19 to \$2.50 a day		
	45			
<i>Belize City Council</i>				
<i>Labourers</i>	20	\$1.74 to \$2.50 a day		
<i>Other Workers</i>	10	\$1.60 to \$2.75 a day	48	
	30			
<i>Agricultural Dept.</i>				
<i>Labourers</i>	48	\$1.65 to \$1.76 a day	48	
	48			

*Males unless otherwise stated.

Cost of Living

From a survey held by the Labour Department in 1942 embracing 100 working class families in Belize it was found that price levels were then 34.7 above pre-war conditions and that the average amounts paid out weekly under the main groups of household expenditure were as follows:

Food	\$7.00
Clothing	1.37
Rent	1.20
Fuel, Light and Washing ..	0.98
Other Items	2.30

\$12.95

The approximate cost on the 1st October, 1949, of maintaining, unchanged, the 1942 standards of living was \$19.50.

The trend of the cost of living during 1949 is shown by the indices hereunder:

1st January	211
1st April	205
1st July	204
1st October	203

No accurate records are available as to the cost of living for Europeans but the rates for hotels and boarding houses vary from \$3.00 to \$5.00 a day, and from \$80.00 to \$100.00 a month.

LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Size and Work of the Labour Department.

The Labour Department was established in 1939 and its duties follow closely those of similar departments in other colonies. Its regular staff consists of the Labour Officer, a Labour Inspector, one Second Class Clerk and an office messenger. Owing to increased work on the inception of Relief work for the unemployed during August a temporary clerk was engaged to attend to the keeping of records relating to the unemployed.

Trade Unions

There were five trade unions on the register during 1949. Particulars of these and their reported memberships on the 31st December, 1948, are:—

(a) The British Honduras General Workers Union (formed in 1939), a general union of all classes of workers, including domestic servants. Its headquarters are in Belize, and with its six branches in the District areas the number of financial members was reported as 1,818, of whom 125 were females.

(b) The Carpenters, Cabinet Makers and Painters Union, established in 1944, whose membership is restricted to the classes of workers named. The number of financial members was stated to be 61.

(c) The National Labour Union, which was registered during 1947, with 227 financial members. This Union is confined to labourers only, but its Rules provide for the admission of other classes of workers if it can be proven that they cannot obtain membership with any other trade union.

(d) The British Honduras Civil Service Association which was originally formed in 1922, and became a registered trade union on the 26th January, 1948. There were 386 names on the roll of members

(e) The British Honduras Mercantile Clerks Union of shop assistants, and clerical workers, which was registered on the 14th July, 1948. The paid-up membership was stated to be 142, inclusive of 69 females.

No associations of employers have yet been formed.

Labour Disputes

One trade dispute occurred involving 120 workers at a sugar mill when the employers refused to meet the workers claim for increased wages. This dispute was referred to a Board of Inquiry held during August and as a result of its findings the workers were granted pay increases with retrospective effect from the date of their claim.

A normal number of individual complaints were lodged at and dealt with by the Labour Department: these involved dismissals without notice, failure to pay wages due, illegal deductions from wages, overcharges for goods at camp commissariats, compensation for accidents received in the course of work, and other matters.

Labour Legislation

The relations between master and servant are controlled by the Employers and Workers Ordinance, No. 6 of 1943, which repealed and replaced previous legislation dating as far back as 1883.

A system of workmen's compensation for accidents sustained during the course of their employment was established in 1943. It follows closely the system in other West Indian colonies. Agricultural workers are included in its scope and insurance is available from various firms operating in the Colony.

The Factories Ordinance, No. 9 of 1942, provides for the maintenance of machinery safeguards and for the regulation of the conditions of employment in factories.

The establishment and registration of Trade Unions is governed by the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1941, whilst the settlement of trade disputes may be effected by arbitration under the Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Ordinance, 1939, when voluntary means fail.

Other ordinances in force govern the practices of recruiting, provide for the fixing of minimum wages, and regulate the employment of women, young persons and children.

There is no legislation to provide for old age pensions, or for relief in cases of sickness. The indigent receive outdoor relief from a charity vote which is administered by the Outdoor Relief Committee and the sick are given free treatment at Government hospitals if they are found to be destitute.

No important changes in labour legislation were made in 1949.

Chapter III: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Up to the year 1931, when a disastrous hurricane caused severe damage in Belize and outlying settlements, the Colony had always balanced its budgets but its economy was almost entirely based on the production of mahogany, chicle, and other forest timbers. No roads had been constructed but a railway was operated in the Stann Creek Valley in connection with the banana trade.

After 1931, the revenue from forests declined and, with a heavy burden of loan charges resulting from the raising of a sterling loan of \$900,000 for reconstruction purposes to make good the damage caused by the hurricane, the Colony was unable to balance its budget.

With the exception of 1947, a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer has been received each year since 1932. Apart from grant-in-aid considerable sums have been devoted to the Colony for the development of communications, for establishing Agriculture, for improving social services, and for the specialised training of local persons. The total sums granted to the Colony up to the end of 1949 may be summarised as follows:—

Grant-in-Aid	\$2,320,290	
Loan in Aid	748,489	
Railway conversion	169,360	
Relief Schemes	410,978	
Colonial Development & Welfare grants	4,967,369	
Hurricane Loan (write off)	428,741	\$9,045,227

Of the 109 Schemes approved up to the end of 1949 for grants either from Colonial Development Fund sources or from funds provided under the Colonial Development & Welfare Act of 1949, and which amount in the aggregate to £1,370,940, 15 have been in respect of communications and amount to £908,570, 20 have been classified under Agriculture and total £85,048 and 6 have been in respect of Water Supplies, Drainage & Irrigation and amount to £98,135.

1. Accounts for the Calendar Year 1949.

The surplus brought forward from 1948 amounted to \$66,969 which did not include \$28,076 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. True Revenue for 1949 amounted to \$2,387,241, while true expenditure was \$2,771,437. At the end of December 1949, there was a deficit of \$69,173 but this did not take into account \$119,725 owing on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. During the year Grants in Aid totalling £95,000 were made by His Majesty's Government and a grant of £106,388 was also received to repay the amount owing by the Colony in respect of the 1931 Hurricane Reconstruction Loan.

Revenue

The total true revenue of the Colony rose from \$2,505,798 in 1947 to \$2,579,713 in 1948, the figure for 1949 was \$2,387,242.

The decrease in revenue was due to the shortfall in Customs Revenue consequent on the curtailment of imports from "hard currency sources," the decrease in revenue from Internal Taxation following the recession in the Mahogany and Chicle trade, and the payment of receipts accruing from loans made for hurricane reconstruction purposes into a Special Fund. Comparative figures for three years are shown below under the principal heads.

	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$
Customs, including Surtaxes	1,227,026	1,061,040	980,707
Internal Taxation	639,150	752,711	771,396
Revenue of Government Property	190,670	147,060	98,348
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	134,036	179,827	143,133
Self-balancing Revenue (Posts & Telegraphs, Telephones, Electric Power)	225,995	330,536	336,399

	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$
Interest and Sinking Fund of re-payments	61,086	80,742	23,510
Miscellaneous	27,835	27,797	33,749
True Revenue	2,505,798	2,579,713	2,387,242
Receipts from <i>Imperial Funds</i>			
Colonial Development & Welfare	435,360	528,160	555,448
Grant-in-aid		100,750	339,800
Grant for repayment of 1931 Hurricane Loan	—	—	428,743
Total Revenue.....	2,941,158	3,208,623	3,711,233

Expenditure

The comparative figures shown below have been classified under main heads.

	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$
Administration	1,281,360	1,457,446	1,343,024
Social Services (Education, Health, Prisons,)	476,028	568,199	610,677
Subventions (including price stabilization)	35,322	36,941	25,241
Public Debt	163,579	157,911	83,861
Public Works Improvements	153,765	219,305	275,428
Self-balancing Expenditure (Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones and Electric Power)	244,206	252,980	245,431
Repayment of 1931 Hurricane Loan	—	—	428,743
Expenditure on Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes	433,401	529,074	647,194
Production (Agriculture & Forestry)	122,324	173,060	187,775
	2,909,985	3,394,916	3,847,374

Administration includes expenditure on Justice, Police, Pensions, Defence, Public Works and some minor branches of Government work.

Public Debt

The outstanding debt of the Colony at the 31st December, 1949, amounted to \$1,160,503, of which sum \$107,725 was in respect of borrowings made locally. Sinking funds in hand amounted to \$359,397, thus giving a figure of \$801,106 as the net outstanding debt. The average interest being paid on the loans outstanding is 4.5 per centum per annum.

During 1949 the Public Debt of the Colony was reduced considerably by the repayment of the 1931 Hurricane Reconstruction Loan. This loan was repaid by means of a grant obtained from His Majesty's Government. A loan of \$20,975 was raised locally for the Centralization of Telecommunications at Stanley Field.

3. Assets and Liabilities

The statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony as at 31st December, 1949, shows assets divisible as follows:

	\$
Cash	54,084
Investments of Various Funds	1,740,540
Advances to official and public organizations	171,539
Deficit	69,173
	<hr/>
	\$2,035,336

Liabilities may be classified briefly as shown below:

	\$
Unexpended balances of loans	8,406
Deposits—Fund balances, etc.	2,022,169
Drafts	4,761
	<hr/>
	\$2,035,336

In addition the following information must be given to present a true account.

	\$
Public Debt of the Colony	1,160,503
Less accumulated Sinking Fund in hand	359,397
	<hr/>
	801,106
Loan Investments	511,300
	<hr/>

The sum of \$119,725 was also due to the Colony on account of expenditure on Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes.

4. Description of the Main Heads of Taxation

The main heads and their yield in revenue are set out below:

	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$
<i>Customs</i>			
Import Duties	1,042,246	890,322	838,838
Export Duties	117,195	109,318	72,591
Package Tax	53,435	25,366	—
Harbour Dues, etc.	14,150	15,441	14,449
Entry Tax	—	20,593	53,048
Administration Charges	—	—	1,781
<i>Internal Taxation, etc.</i>			
Excise Duties	186,862	203,902	207,589
Income Tax	346,818	414,125	430,500
Land Tax	39,653	39,429	42,755
Estae Duty	3,311	35,161	28,011
Licences, Banks & Fire Insurance Companies	1,443	1,523	4,312
Other Licences: Motor Vehicles, etc.	19,933	25,167	29,253
Fines of Court	17,385	13,401	9,179
Fees of Court and Stamp Duties	14,750	15,595	23,129
Warehouse Rents	37,886	32,579	18,946

Import Duties. The tariff of import duties is largely *ad valorem* with a general duty of 27½ per centum and a preferential rate of 15 per centum. Specific duties are levied on wines, certain defined spirits and tobacco and cigarettes. Equipment for agricultural and forestry operations may be admitted free of duty under Concessions for Development.

Export Duties are levied upon chicle, coconuts, mahogany, cedar, pine and fish.

Entry Tax. This tax came into effect on 21.7.48 imposing a 1% Tax on the C.I.F. values on all goods imported into the Colony for home consumption.

Excise Duty is imposed on locally produced rum at the rate of \$4.50 per proof gallon if intended for consumption within the Colony. There is also a small duty on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

Land Tax. A tax is levied on all lands at the rate of 1½ cents an acre.

Income Tax. Income Tax is levied on the chargeable income of any person at the rate of 5 per centum of the first \$500 increasing by a sliding scale up to 35 per centum on that part of incomes in excess of \$19,000. A surtax on a sliding scale is also levied on chargeable income in excess of \$10,000 being 10 per centum on the first \$5,000, 15 per centum on the next \$5,000 and 20 per centum on the remainder. Company Tax is at the rate of 35 cents on every dollar of chargeable income of a Company.

Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies. Any establishment carrying on the business of banking pays an annual licence fee of \$500, and Fire

Insurance Companies pay a licence fee at the rate of 2½ per centum on gross premiums with a minimum fee of 25 dollars.

Estate Duty. Duty is chargeable on estates over \$100 based on a scale which is \$1.00 per centum on estates up to \$500 increasing to \$25.00 per centum on estates over \$50,000.

Licences—Motor Vehicles. An annual duty is payable on all motor vehicles varying according to the weight of the vehicle, its classification, and the purpose it serves.

Stamp Duties. The chief features are impositions of 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange with 10 cents for every \$100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every \$50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse Rents. A charge is made on merchandise which is deposited in bond, usually for re-export.

5. Customs Tariff

Broadly, the Customs Schedule of Duties may be described as a two-part *ad valorem* tariff on C.I.F. prices with specific duties on a few selected articles. Under the general tariff, the majority of the small and general importations subject to *ad valorem* duties bear a 27½ per cent imposition; under the preferential tariff the duty is one of 15 per cent.

Equipment, such as trucks, tractors, carts, wagons and agricultural implements, imported to aid in agriculture or in forestry operations, is admitted free.

Specific duties, with some qualifications, are levied on importations of cattle, on certain manufactured articles such as bicycles, boots and shoes, fuel oils and petroleum, on the chief items of food and on wines, spirits and tobacco.

Some imports, the principal of which are cutlery, plated goods and jams, etc., bear a thirty per cent levy on the General Tariff and fifteen per cent on the Preferential.

6. Excise

* Excise Duties are confined to rum and tobacco, the rate on the former being \$4.50 per gallon if not exceeding the strength of proof and \$4.50 per proof gallon. The rates on tobacco, are now:

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| (a) | cigars, weighing not more than 5 lb. per 1,000 | 20 cents per 100 |
| | weighing over 5 lb. per 1,000 | 50 cents per 100 |
| (b) | cigarettes weighing not more than 3 lb. per 1,000 | 15 cents per 100 |
| | weighing over 3 lb. per 1,000 | 30 cents per 100 |
| (c) | manufactured | 60 cents per lb. |

7. Income Tax

Income Tax on individuals is payable at the following rates:

	\$			
On the first	500	of Chargeable Income		5%
„ next	500	„	„	6%
„ „	500	„	„	8%
„ „	500	„	„	10%
„ „	500	„	„	12½%
„ „	500	„	„	15%
„ „	500	„	„	17½%
„ „	1,000	„	„	20%
„ „	4,500	„	„	25%
„ „	10,000	„	„	30%
On all amounts above	\$19,000	„	„	35%

The rates of Surtax on Individuals are:

On the first \$5,000 in excess of \$10,000 of Chargeable Income	10%
On the next \$5,000	15%
On the remainder	20%

The tax on Companies is 35%.

Incidence of Income Tax

Tax Payable

Gross Income	Single Person	Married Man	Married man with one child	Married Man with two children
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1,000	20.00	5.00	—	—
1,500	46.00	28.00	17.50	7.50
2,000	79.00	55.00	43.00	31.00
3,000	170.00	135.00	115.00	95.00
4,000	300.00	252.50	222.50	195.00
5,000	470.00	410.00	370.00	335.00
6,000	695.00	620.00	570.00	530.00
7,000	945.00	870.00	820.00	770.00
8,000	1,195.00	1,120.00	1,070.00	1,020.00
9,000	1,445.00	1,370.00	1,320.00	1,270.00
10,000	1,695.00	1,620.00	1,570.50	1,520.00
15,000	3,595.00	3,475.00	3,395.00	3,315.00
20,000	5,795.00	5,660.00	5,570.00	5,480.00
35,000	13,995.00	13,850.00	13,720.00	13,610.00

Deductions allowed against gross income are:

Personal allowance	..	..	..	..	\$500
Wife	..	..	..	..	\$300
Each child	..	..	..	..	\$200
Dependent relative					\$125
Earned Income 1/10 of gross income up to ..					\$500
Life Insurance Premiums up to a certain limit					
Gifts to charity.					

8. Estate Duty

Under the provisions of an Ordinance in 1927, as amended in 1949, Estate Duty is payable according to a general scale as follows:

<i>When the amount on which duty is chargeable</i>				<i>Estate duty shall be payable at the rate per centum of—</i>	
Exceeds	\$100 but does not exceed		\$500		\$1.00
"	500	"	"	2,000	1.50
"	2,000	"	"	4,000	2.00
"	4,000	"	"	6,000	3.00
"	6,000	"	"	10,000	3.50
"	10,000	"	"	15,000	5.00
"	15,000	"	"	20,000	7.50
"	20,000	"	"	25,000	10.00
"	25,000	"	"	30,000	12.50
"	30,000	"	"	35,000	15.00
"	35,000	"	"	40,000	17.50
"	40,000	"	"	45,000	20.00
"	45,000	"	"	50,000	22.50
"	50,000				25.00

Chapter IV: Currency and Banking**CURRENCY***Standard and Legal Tender*

The standard of currency is the British Honduras dollar which was of the equivalent value of the dollar of the United States of America until the exchange rate was changed to \$4.00 to the £ on 31st December, 1949. Currency notes in denominations of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 issued by the Currency Commissioners are legal tender up to any amount. Subsidiary silver currency is legal tender in payment of any amount not exceeding ten dollars but coins of bronze nickel or mixed metal in five cent or one cent pieces are legal tender up to fifty cents only.

Circulation

The note circulation of the Colony, which stood at \$283,536 at the 31st December, 1939, expanded to \$837,643 at the end of 1949. The figures for each denomination were as follows:

	<i>Number of Notes</i>	<i>Amount \$</i>
\$1	100,509	100,509
\$2	45,697	91,394
\$5	83,186	415,930
\$10	22,981	229,810
		<hr/> \$837,643

This figure represented an increase of \$5,312 over the quantity in circulation a year before. The reserve of notes, at the commencement of the year was \$1,074,000. The issues during the year amounted to \$194,000 leaving a balance on hand at 31st December of \$880,000.

Subsidiary Currency

The Coin issue of the Colonial Government at the 31st December was as follows:

<i>Silver</i>	<i>\$</i>
50 cent pieces.. ..	69,952
25 " "	49,389
10 " "	25,739
5 " "	5,546
<i>Mixed metal (nickel, bronze, etc)</i>	
5 cent pieces.. ..	22,003
1 " " (bronze)	13,354
	<hr/> \$185,983

BANKING

Banking in the Colony is conducted by two Banks, the Royal Bank of Canada which was established in 1912 when the Bank of British Honduras was purchased, and the Barclays Bank (D. C. & O.) which opened a Branch in the Colony on 4th September, 1949. These Banks provide all the usual banking services.

The Government Savings Bank, operating from the Treasury in Belize, with a branch in the administrative centre of each district, increased its deposits from \$410,632 at the 1st January, 1939, to \$1,608,314.70 at the end of 1949. The deposits during 1949, increased by \$31,531.01 as compared with the figures of the previous year. Account holders numbered 7,532 with an average holding of \$213.

Chapter V: Commerce

EXPORTS

The Colony's chief exports are mahogany and cedar logs, mahogany, cedar and pine lumber, bananas and citrus fruits and re-exports of manufactured articles.

The exports for the years 1948 and 1949 were as follows:—

	1948	1949
Domestic Exports	\$4,243,522	\$3,372,602
Re-Exports	1,899,079	1,192,245
Total Exports	\$6,142,601	\$4,564,847

Grapefruit Juice to the value of \$288,872 was exported during 1949 as compared with \$429,473 in 1948. The domestic exports of Chicle Gums were \$509,683, as against 1948 figures which were \$1,444,655. There has been a gradual annual increase of the exports of Pine and Mahogany lumber. The exports of Pine lumber amounted to \$593,985 as against \$418,553 in 1948. Mahogany lumber exported realized \$1,148,790 in 1949 and \$1,203,898 in 1948. The exports of Mahogany logs, which went principally to the United States of America, amounted to \$128,674 in 1949 as against \$1,438,623 in 1948. Coconuts exported in 1949 amounted to \$82,618 as against the exports in 1948 of \$154,429.

IMPORTS

Imports showed a decrease of \$2,049,301 compared with the previous year's figure of \$7,669,906; this is due to import restrictions and to the fact that transshipment cargo is no longer included in the imports and exports figures for 1949. The imports of rice during the current year amounted to 15,713 cwt. costing \$162,649. 42,167 bags of flour (196 lb. each) cost \$421,870 in 1949, while 36,743 bags cost \$495,251 in 1948. The imports of motor cars, trucks and jeeps were 77 units to the value of \$123,948, while the previous year's imports were 86 units costing \$116,953. The imports of Cotton Piece Goods showed a decrease of \$253,307 compared to 1948 imports of \$577,243.

Chapter VI: Production

AGRICULTURE

The staff of the Department of Agriculture consisted of a Director of Agriculture, a Veterinary Officer, two Assistant Agricultural Officers, two Agricultural Instructors, and nine Farm Demonstrators. In addition, thirteen temporary Farm Demonstrators were employed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme aimed at encouraging increased local food production. The new post of Senior Agricultural Officer was approved and an officer appointed towards the end of the year.

Crop Production.

The year 1949 produced one of the most severe droughts experienced in the history of the Colony and the drier Northern and Western districts were hard hit by the dry conditions; the failure of food crops and losses of livestock were responsible for great hardship in the Districts and much relief work was necessary, with meagre food supplies having to be augmented from other Districts. The Southern Districts of the Colony were not so hard

hit and conditions were reasonably satisfactory. Areas under all food crops were considerably reduced and yields were low.

Livestock.

Apart from deaths of livestock as a result of drought conditions there were no major outbreaks of diseases and stock generally kept good health. Some use was made of the stud animals provided by the Department.

Approximate figures for the various types of livestock were:

Cattle	10,000
Pigs	10,000
Horsekind	3,000
Sheep and Goats	500
Poultry	40,000

ORGANISATION AND DESTINATION OF PRODUCTION

Grain Crops. Yields were considerably reduced though at the beginning of the year there was promise of an increased area to be planted; drought conditions, however, cancelled all hopes of any reasonable crop and it was necessary to rush additional supplies to the normal grain growing districts. Luckily there was a carry over from the favourable season of 1948 and adequate supplies were available even after 2,061,300 lb. valued at \$95,494 had been exported.

Rice production in the South was satisfactory; this crop is steadily increasing in the Colony.

Beans. Production was severely limited by the drought and it was not until the end of the year that good stands were obtained for reaping in 1950.

Bananas. Though production was considerably lower than in 1948, the acreage under this crop is increasing, preparations being made for large plantings in the Western districts in addition to the established and newly planted areas in the Southern districts; leafspot disease was kept under reasonable control by spraying. Exports of bananas totalled 58,056 stems, valued at \$38,269.

Coconuts. The industry suffered considerably from the dry conditions and yields were severely curtailed. Exports amounted to 1,807,004 nuts valued at \$82,618. Local oil manufacture also used a good proportion of the crop.

Citrus. Exports were as follows:—

Grapefruit 61,794 cwt. valued at	\$230,870
Oranges 1,771 cwt. valued at	\$4,370
Grapefruit Juice 3,313,912 lb. valued at	\$228,872
Orange juice 58,243 lb. valued at	\$4,438.

giving a total export value for the industry of \$468,520. The crop was somewhat affected by the dry conditions, but expansion of the industry has continued.

Sugar Cane. Production remains in the hands of small and medium growers; the crop was a reasonable one and reflected the increased acreage planted in 1948. 352 tons of unrefined sugar valued at \$39,413 were exported.

Other Crops. The purchase of *cohune* kernels was undertaken as a relief measure and resulted in export of 545,921 lb. valued at \$35,807. Other exports included *plantains* to the value of \$2,834 and a trial shipment of *tobacco* valued at \$1,500.

Marketing. The Marketing Board functioned throughout the year and encouraged growers of local foodstuffs by offering guaranteed prices for certain crops and also making loans to enable farmers to clean and cultivate their land.

FISHERIES

There is no Fisheries Department. Fishing in the Colony engages about 125 fishing dories and smacks of a length varying from fifteen to thirty-five feet and averaging from half a ton to ten tons each, with an aggregate of 150 tons.

Legislation governing fishing generally in the waters of the Colony is still under consideration by Government. On the 24th September, 1948, an export duty on fish came into effect. The rates are as follows:—

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Crawfish (commonly known as Crayfish,
Rock Lobster and Shell Fish) | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound on gross
tail weight. |
| (b) Whole Crawfish | $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound. |
| (c) On other fish, whether fresh, salted or
smoked | 1 cent a pound. |

FORESTRY

The principal forest products are:

- (a) Mahogany logs and lumber
- (b) Cedar logs and lumber
- (c) Pine lumber
- (d) Secondary hardwood logs and lumber
- (e) Rosewood sold by the ton
- (f) Chicle and Crown gum
- (g) Cohune kernels
- (h) Firewood and charcoal
- (i) Alligator skins

The total area of forest lands in the Colony is 8,337 square miles or 93.9 per cent of the total area. It consists of the following types:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------|
| I Mangrove forests | approximately | 2.8 % |
| II Savannahs | | |
| (a) Brackish water) | Wet Savannahs | 2.7 % |
| (b) Fresh water) | | |
| (c) Inland | Pine forest | " |

III	Pine forest	Dry Savannahs	„	15.4%
IV	High rain forest			
	1. Swamp forest	„	2.3%	
	2. Intermediate forest	„	17.9%	
	3. Mountain forest)			
	4. Advanced forest)			
	) Advanced forest	„	51.9%	
V	Secondary rain forest)			
	(i) High forest)			
	(ii) Existing and recently abandoned			
	cultivation	„	7.0%	
	Total land area of mainland			100.0%

There was a general weakening in the timber market during the early months of 1949. Mahogany firms endeavoured to keep down their purchases to a minimum and the shortage of pine lumber on the local market, due to good export prices in 1948, changed to an abundance.

Had the demand been strong pine production records would have been broken because it has been one of the driest and therefore most favourable logging seasons ever experienced. Up till the end of December there were no floods on the rivers. This was a disadvantage to mahogany operators who had logs to be floated out.

Towards the end of the year the devaluation of the pound sterling caused most sawmills to close down.

The extremely dry season and the fires which devastated 250 square miles of hardwood chicle forest made 1949 the worst chicle year for a generation. There was renewed interest in chicle towards the end of the year both in the U.S.A. and Europe. This can be traced to exchange difficulties and the restrictions imposed by Mexico.

Many serious fires destroyed extensive areas of pine seedlings one to four years old. Those over eight feet high usually survived the grass fires in a very scorched condition.

Plantations suffered from the drought. Much of the mahogany seed sown did not germinate and thirty per cent of the pine plants put out on 134 acres died from drought. The older compartments in the pine and mahogany plantations did not suffer and the results are so good at Stann Creek that plans have been made and incorporated in the Ten Year Overall Plan for the Colony, which allow for the formation of 500 acres of pine plantations each year from 1951-1960.

Two shipments of Balsa, which is mature in seven years, were made to the United Kingdom and the prospects of increased trade in this and other "hardwoods" have improved. A sample shipment of turpentine and resin

was sent for test. It is hoped that a naval stores industry will develop in the slash pine forests.

Chapter VII: Social Services

EDUCATION

The system of primary education is that of subsidized denominational schools and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). The Governor is President of the Board, while the Director of Education acts as Secretary. A representative of the teachers is included among its members.

There are 85 grant-aided and three Government primary schools. There are also some 27 unaided primary schools both denominational and private. All primary schools are co-educational, with the exception of four in Belize. The ages of enrolment for the purpose of grants-in-aid are five to fifteen inclusive.

Secondary education is entirely in the hands of the denominations, but the Government assists by providing sixty-five scholarships for pupils from primary schools, each scholarship being tenable for four years, though it may be extended for a fifth year with the approval of the Board of Education. There are five secondary schools, three of which are for boys. Three have preparatory departments. Teachers are largely recruited from abroad. The age-range of pupils receiving secondary education proper is eleven to eighteen. The schools are all situated in Belize.

There is no vocational school, but the building for one was put up during the year and teaching will start as soon as staff and equipment are available. Handicrafts are taught at two schools in Belize, and instruction in domestic science is given to a limited number of girls from the higher standards at one centre in Belize. The teaching of agriculture is encouraged in rural schools by free grants of tools. The industrial school for male juvenile delinquents, which is conducted by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Government, began operating again, towards the end of 1949, in new quarters at Baking Pot near Cayo.

Education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen. That the enforcement of compulsion has been a success may be inferred from the fact that the percentage of the average attendance to the enrolment in the Colony is approximately eighty, the highest in the British Caribbean area. Education is theoretically not yet free however, each primary school pupil being expected to pay a fee of 5 cents (3d.) weekly; few in fact do so.

An average of 230 certified teachers and ninety-seven pupil teachers is employed in the primary schools. The majority of the teachers are untrained, but since 1941 selected teachers have been sent to training colleges in Jamaica, there being twelve such teachers training annually. Twenty-six have thus far completed their training and have been posted to schools. The Education Department staff includes three supervisors whose primary duty is to help to raise the standard of teaching in the schools.



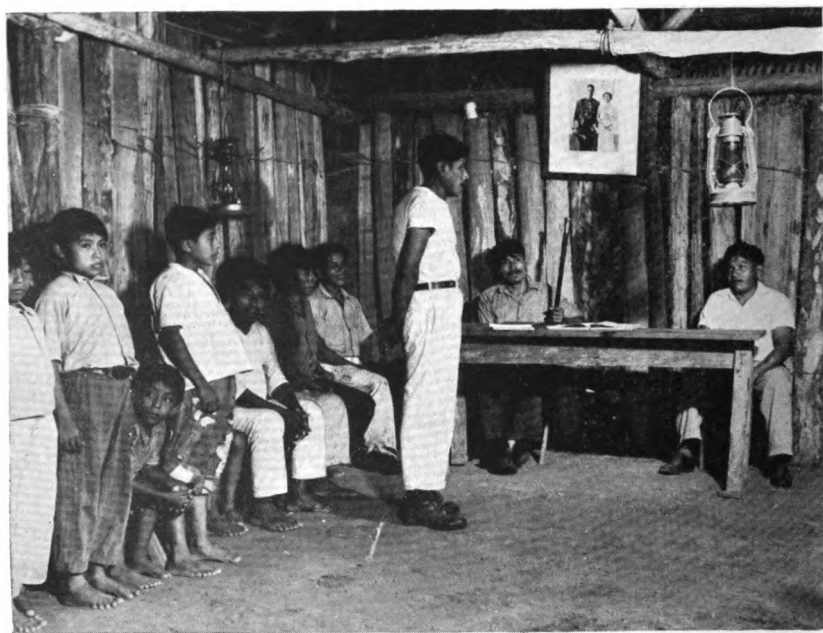
NURSERY PLANTING AT A CITRUS ESTATE



CLEARING A WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE FOR THE NEW
AUGUST PINE RIDGE—ORANGE WALK FEEDER ROAD



VILLAGE FIRE FIGHTERS AT BENQUE VIEJO



THE ALCALDE'S COURT AT SAN PEDRO COLUMBIA

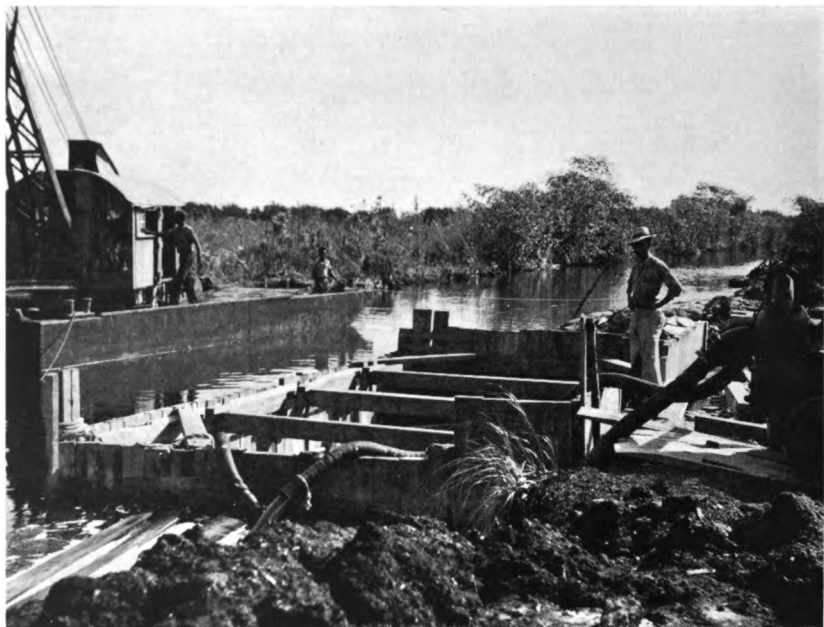
The Alcalde is the headman of an Indian village. His insignia of office is a Barra—a silver knobbed stick—which he is seen holding



A MARKET ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE BELIZE RIVER



NEW BRIDGE AT EL CAYO



BRIDGE BUILDING OPERATIONS ON THE NEW HECTOR CREEK ROAD



CLEARING GROUND FOR CITRUS GROWING

The position of the teachers has been improved by the approval in 1946 of the granting of assistance towards housing. New and much improved salary scales are now paid, and the quantity and quality of recruits has improved considerably. The British Honduras Teachers' Federation, which was organized in 1939 with constituent associations in all the districts, holds an annual conference and makes recommendations to the Board of Education from time to time.

After a Vacation Conference and several meetings of teachers in Indian Schools a new curriculum was drawn up in 1949 and is now being put into operation.

The British Council supplies periodicals to certain schools, primary and secondary. It has also given books to the Jubilee Library, Belize, to form the nucleus of a teachers' Reference Library, and adds books regularly to the general stock.

Education has benefited from Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes under which grants have been approved for the free supply of text-books, stationery and equipment to schools, towards the rehabilitation of some twenty-eight school buildings damaged or destroyed by hurricane in 1942 towards the holding of annual teachers' vacation courses during the past four years, and for the establishment of a Technical High School in Belize.

The Credit Union Movement continues to grow in strength.

The average enrolment of grant-aided primary schools was 11,298 in 1949 and the average attendance 9,227. The average enrolment in the secondary schools (excluding preparatory departments) was 536, and there was an estimated enrolment of 1,215 and average attendance of 900 in non-grant-aided primary schools and preparatory departments of the secondary schools.

For 1949 the total expenditure from the revenue of the Colony was \$247,851.

HEALTH

The vital statistics for the year are as follows:—

Estimated population	65,354
Number of births	2,548
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	38.9
Number of deaths from all causes	877
Death Rate per 1,000 of population	13.41
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year of age	266
Infant mortality rate per 100 live births	104.8

Malaria

This disease still continues to hold first place in the causes of morbidity. 898 cases were treated in the various hospitals throughout the Colony, representing 14.25% of the total hospital admissions. The comparative figure for 1948 was 16%.

2,048 houses, including those in the Indian villages of San Pedro Columbia and San Antonio, were sprayed with a 5% solution of D.D.T. in kerosene, whilst Paludrine was distributed to children in selected schools as a prophylactic measure against Malaria.

Typhoid Fever

Sixty sporadic cases were reported with a case fatality rate of 8.3% as compared with 44 cases with a case fatality rate of 9% in 1948.

Tuberculosis

Forty-five cases with 33 deaths were reported as compared with 35 cases with 45 deaths in 1948.

Venereal Diseases

There were 5,388 attendances at the Venereal Diseases Clinic of the Belize Hospital as compared with 6,081 in 1948. 3,231 bloods were examined by the Kahn reaction for syphilis; 690 or 21.3 were positive, as compared with 3,150 bloods with 784 or 24.88% positive, in 1948.

Medical Staff

The establishment consists of a Senior Medical Officer, eight Medical Officers, a Matron and a Nursing Sister. Other Hospital staff consists of a Head Dispenser with two qualified assistants, and three apprentices and two laboratory technicians. The nursing staff consists of thirteen staff nurses, and sixty-four nurses including nurses in training. The Health Staff includes eleven sanitary inspectors and one probationer sanitary inspector, an Inspector of Midwives, eight rural nurses and three District Nurses.

Hospitals

There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each district, with a total of 187 beds, twenty-five of which are in the maternity wards. The fees range from twenty-five cents a day for fourth-class patients to \$3.00 a day for the first-class, but no charge is made for the poor and indigent. Admissions to the Belize Hospital during 1949 numbered 3,398, and to District Hospitals 2,903 as compared with 3,640 and 2,375 respectively in 1948. The Out-patients Department of Belize Hospital recorded 33,740 attendances including those who attended as ambulatory cases of illness, and also the various clinics including the Dental Clinic, casualty dressing and minor operations, as against 35,383 in 1948.

Sanitary Organization

Sanitary Inspectors are in charge of the scavenging of the City; they are responsible for the inspection of all receptacles for the collection of water and for the rigid enforcement of the by-laws governing bakeries, restaurants, hotels and slaughter houses.

The sea and the canals which run through the town of Belize provide the only means for a majority of the householders to dispose of their night

soil. Disagreeable and unsightly as it may seem, there can be little doubt that it is the best expedient which could be adopted. Methods of disposal of night soil in the country villages are faulty.

Rural Dispensaries

Three large dispensaries, to two of which nurses' quarters have been added, have been constructed under scheme D 1020 Colonial Development and Welfare at a total cost of \$28,129.

HOUSING

In Belize, the population live in houses constructed of timber with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often swampy and flooded. The work of filling in plots with pipeshank from the sea bed is constantly being undertaken by private individuals and the City Council, while reclamation schemes have, from time to time, been undertaken by the Government. It is not usual to find any ground-floor rooms used for sleeping; their use is normally confined to storage, washing, or for kitchen purposes. Only a small number of the population live in houses which they own.

Housing conditions elsewhere in the Colony are poor. The principal building medium is locally grown pine with imported galvanized corrugated iron for roof covering. The Indians build of native round wood for framing with palmetto pole and mud walls with a thatched roof of local palm leaves.

In all towns and villages there is a definite shortage of housing accommodation, the shortage being most acute in the capital, Belize. There are at present in existence in Belize 7 Government owned houses which accommodate 7 families of the poorer type working class.

A Housing scheme for Belize has been prepared consisting of thirty-three individual houses to be erected and twenty-two lots to be leased for building houses with the assistance of the Local Authority. The scheme has been approved.

SOCIAL WELFARE

During the year 1949, the staff of the Social Welfare Department consisted of:—

The Co-operative and Social Welfare Officer
The Assistant Welfare Officer
The Handicraft Instructor.

The Co-operative and Social Welfare Officer, was absent from the Colony from the 25th May, to the 23rd September, 1949. The Assistant Welfare Officer acted in his absence. On the 1st November, 1949, the former was seconded for duty with the Colonial Development Corporation.

Work in the rural areas continued entirely through the efforts of voluntary helpers, mainly teachers and rural health nurses. Village councils continue to play their part and many communal amenities have been provided as a result of efforts organised by them.

The Credit Union movement is now well established in the Colony and at the end of the year there were sixteen registered Unions. Of these six are in the town of Belize and the remainder in the districts. Membership is increasing, the habit of thrift hitherto absent is growing and capital is being built up and utilized by the members to better their economic conditions.

Handicraft continues at the Government institutions, namely at the Poor House which specializes in the making of door mats from coconut coir. Mattresses are also made by the inmates of the mental Hospital. A payment scheme exists for the inmates and surplus profits are used for the provision of amenities for the institution. During the year the following amenities were provided from this fund, one Loud speaker extension for the female Poor House, and ten bedside lockers, also two wheeled chairs have been ordered.

The Handicraft Centre under the direction of the Instructor and his assistant continues to progress. There are now nine girls and three boys engaged on a piece work basis. It is hoped ultimately to run this centre on a co-operative basis when the business will be owned by the workers themselves. The Centre which has a Savings Union and Study club continue to give their fortnightly programme of entertainment to the inmates of the Poor House and at Christmas provided an Xmas pageant which was also presented at His Majesty's Prison.

Public Assistance is administered through the Outdoor Relief Committee of which the Social Welfare Officer is the Chairman. The number of persons on relief at the end of the year was just under 900 persons, and the expenditure for the period \$30,221.41. During the year the report of the select Committee appointed to consider and make recommendations on the whole question of relief was received. A general increase in the rate was recommended to \$1.00 per week. The rolls were revised and many persons whose circumstances had improved were removed from the rolls.

The Gann Rest House, a night shelter for homeless men operated by the Salvation Army, continues to justify its existence. During the year 9,478 men were accommodated, a considerable increase over 8,634 for 1948, the average being 789 per month. There is a nightly attendance of 26 regular lodgers at the shelter and about 12 irregular ones. Accommodation for the night is free and bread and butter and tea is served in the morning at two cents per individual. If the person is unable to pay this service is given free. During the year this meal was supplied to 9,350 men. The upkeep of the institution was met by a grant of \$720 from the Central Government, \$308.50 from the Public Assistance Board and \$219.48 being fees received from lodgers.

Wide use had to be made of the Probation System during the year as there was no approved school for delinquents for the greater part of the year. At the beginning of the year there were 31 persons on Probation. Of these 20 cases were satisfactorily concluded. The number of visits to homes by the Probation Officer during the year totalled 51 and visits to the Court 174.

It must however be borne in mind that the services of this Officer are only part time. With the opening of Listowel Training School for Boys at Baking Pot on the 3rd December, 1949 many of the cases referred to the Probation Officer will now be committed to this institution.

Chapter VIII: Legislation

Local Loans Ordinance, 1949.

This Ordinance defines the terms and conditions applicable to Local Loans authorised to be raised by the Legislature of the Colony.

Radio-Active Minerals, 1949.

Ordinance No. 3 of 1949 makes provision to regulate and control prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals in the Colony and the exportation of such minerals.

Customs and Excise Duties, 1949.

This Ordinance consolidates the Customs and Excise duties legislation to date.

Estate Duty (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

This Ordinance increases the rates of estate duty where the amount on which such duty is chargeable exceeds ten thousand dollars.

The Goods in Transit (Exemption from Duty) Ordinance, 1949.

In keeping with a policy of Freedom of Transit this Ordinance exempts goods in transit from payment of Customs duties and other similar charges.

The Undesirable Immigrants (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949.

This Ordinance increased from four hundred to one thousand dollars the maximum amount which may be demanded as a deposit from a person seeking admission into the Colony.

The Status of Aliens Ordinance, 1949.

An alien has the right to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property of every description in the same manner in all respects as a natural-born British subject. A title to real and personal property of every description may be derived through from or in succession to an alien in the same manner as a natural-born British subject.

The Marketing Board and Belize Housing Scheme Loan Ordinance, 1949.

This Ordinance authorised the raising of a loan for the purpose of purchasing machinery and equipment for, and of financing the operations of the Marketing Board and for financing a housing scheme in the town of Belize.

The Belize Property Site Tax Ordinance, 1949.

This Ordinance was passed to enable the Belize City Council to levy a site tax on properties in the town of Belize.

The British Honduras Currency Notes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1949

This Ordinance revalued the British Honduras dollar on the basis of \$4.00 to the pound sterling and since then the British Honduras dollar has become linked to the pound sterling.

Chapter IX: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament 'in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law' passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed 'District Courts') are established in each of the five magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who is *ex-officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding \$100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a Magistrate, District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of Magistrates and District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The number of civil suits issued in the District Court (Civil Jurisdiction) was 520 and, in addition, there were 12 claims for compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1942. A total of \$2,742.90 was awarded to the dependants of the deceased workmen in 4 of the claims, and a total sum of \$2,574.69 was awarded in the remaining 8 claims for partial incapacity.

The total number of criminal and quasi-criminal cases dealt with in the Summary Courts was 1,921 in Belize and 852 in the out-districts, classified as follows:

	<i>Belize</i>	<i>Districts</i>
Homicide	3	2
Offences against the person	119	86
Offences against property	327	65
Malicious injury to Property	—	1

Praedial larceny	4	5
Other crimes	20	27
Offences under Labour Laws	3	4
Offences against Laws relating to Revenue, Municipal Road and Social Economy ..	371	257
Petty offences	957	405
	<hr/> 1,804	<hr/> 852

POLICE.

Composition & Distribution.

In 1949 the British Honduras Police Force consisted of 1 Superintendent 2 Assistant Superintendents and 190 other ranks. The majority of the force are British Hondurans with a few West Indians making up the remainder. The officers are members of the Unified Colonial Police Service. Force Headquarters is in Belize, the capital, and 117 all ranks are employed in Belize as follows:—Superintendent's Office 7; Immigration Branch 8; Detective Branch 16; Criminal Records Office 4; Court Sergeant's Branch 6; Traffic Branch 9; Mounted Branch 6; Trades and Special Duties 7; and Uniform Branch 54. The remaining 76 members of the force man the district Head Stations and sub-stations as follows:—Corozal 13; Orange Walk 9; El Cayo 8; Stann Creek 9; Punta Gorda 8; Benque Viejo 8; Roaring Creek 1; Douglas 1; Progreso 1; Patchakan 1; Gallon Jug 2; August Pine Ridge 1; San Antonio N.D. 1; San Estevan 1; San Roman 1; Gales Point 1; Maskall 1; Crooked Tree 1; San Pedro 1; Caye Caulker 1; Mullins River 1; Sittee River 1; Seine Bight 1; Monkey River 1; Barranco 1; and San Antonio T.D. 1. The older police Stations are gradually being replaced by new buildings and during the year the following new accommodation was taken over:—In Belize the Roosevelt Annex was completed and this now contains Sleeping Quarters, the Superintendent's Office and General Office, the Registered Office of the Police Credit Union Ltd., the offices of the Assistant Superintendents of Police, the Immigration Office, the Criminal Record Office and the Detective Branch. New substations were completed and occupied at Crooked Tree and Roaring Creek and the new Civil Administrative Block, which includes the Police Station, started at El Cayo.

Training.

During the intervals between the Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court, lectures and parades are taken by the officers and senior N.C.O.s. These serve to keep the force up to standard in arms drill and also serve to keep the men abreast of the latest laws, etc. The same procedure as outlined above is carried out by the N.C.O. i/c the District Head Stations. There is no regular established training depot, and the lack of such a depot is keenly felt, especially where recruits are concerned, as the training they now receive is not as thorough as that which could be given at a training depot.

Transport.

Transport is distributed as follows :—

Belize—1 Station Waggon, 1 Prisoner's Van, 2 Motorcycles, 2 Launches.

El Cayo—1 car

Corozal—1 Land Rover

Stann Creek—1 motorcycle

Punta Gorda—1 motorcycle

Orange Walk—1 motorcycle.

In addition to the normal traffic duties, the Police engaged in the traffic department are responsible for the registration, testing and licensing of all the motor vehicles and bicycles in the Colony, and the keeping of all their records.

Besides the mechanical transport listed above, horses, which are invaluable in the districts, are used to a great extent for bush patrols, and for visiting various villages which have no roads leading to them suitable for motor transport.

PREVALENCE OF CRIME

There were 4 cases of Murder in 1949 as compared with 5 the previous year, a decrease of 1, Manslaughter also showed a decrease of 2 from the previous year's figure of 6; There was 1 Attempted Suicide and 204 cases of Criminal Harm. No Rape cases occurred during the year but 3 cases of Carnal Knowledge and 5 of Indecent Assault were recorded. Housebreaking 52 showed a sharp increase of 25. Dangerous Drugs 6, however, showed a marked decrease of 10. Juvenile Crime increased sharply and 150 cases were recorded against juveniles. Stealing (larceny) remained much about the same with 275 cases as compared with 273 cases in 1948. Traffic 421 showed an increase of 190 over the previous year's figure and Minor Offences also showed an increase of 32. A total of 2297 cases involving 2622 persons were brought before the courts by the Police. Of this figure 2291 persons or 87% were convicted, 181 were acquitted, Nolle Prosequi was entered in 12 cases and 138 cases were dealt with otherwise.

PRISONS

The authorized staff of the Prison Department comprises a Superintendent, a Clerk & Storekeeper, a Senior Warder, a Matron and sixteen warders and seven temporary warders.

The principal Prison is situated in Belize, it consists of 78 cells with a completely separate Female Block of 6 cells. There is a Prison Farm at Gracie Rock which was opened on 7th October, 1949, for First Offenders and Young Offenders. This Farm Prison is situated in the Pine Ridge 24 miles from Belize.

Prisoners undergoing sentences of three months or over are accommodated in Belize.

There are 5 District Prisons, one in each district, on an average they accommodate 6 prisoners. Corozal District Prison was opened up as a Temporary Place of Confinement for Juveniles on 17th January, 1949, and reverted to its original use on the completion of the "Listowel" Boys' Training School, Baking Pot, on 30th November, 1949.

The District Prisons are in charge of the civil Police subject to the District Commissioner and Superintendent of Prisons. Prisoners are only detained in the districts for sentences under 3 months. 817 persons were received during the year, an increase of 87 over the previous year.

At the main Prison in Belize, trades of Carpentry, Cabinet work, Tailoring, Mattress-making, Baking, Shoe-making, Book-binding, Concrete casting, Tortoise shell work, Wood carving, Fibrecraft and Handicraft are taught.

Short term prisoners are placed in gangs clearing Government lots and the surroundings of Government buildings. Long term recidivists are given rehabilitative training in Book-binding, Baking, Carpentry, Cabinet-making, Mattress-making, Wood carving and Sign writing. Female prisoners are employed on Prison domestic tasks such as the manufacture of coconut oil as used in the Prison for domestic purposes, fibre-beating, sewing and tapestry making, washing and mending clothes, embroidery and knitting.

A part-time Probationer Officer appointed by the Governor attends to the After-Care of prisoners.

Chapter X: Public Utilities

Public utilities in the Colony are confined to the provision of electricity and telephones. The chief electric power station is operated by the Government in Belize but the small Town Board of Corozal provides electric lighting for its own inhabitants.

The electrical supply system in Belize is three wire direct current, 220 and 110 volts, using overhead lines on poles provided from local pine. Current is supplied by four direct-connected, diesel-driven generating sets of British manufacture, using rotary balancers for the mid-wire. Fuel oil costs twenty-eight cents and lubricating oil ninety-eight cents for each imperial gallon; the total cost of oil in 1949 was \$49,137.16.

Charges for electric current are:

(a) for lighting:

first 50 kw. per kw.	.....	15 cents
over 50 kw. per kw.	.....	12 cents
all over 100	.....	10 cents

(b) for industrial power:

15 cents to 3 cents per kw.

Consumers number over 2,227.

Ice is manufactured by the Electrical Department by a ten-ton plant of American manufacture and a five-ton plant of British make. Approximate sales of ice during 1949 were 4,816,968 lb. at a rate of half a cent per lb.

TELEPHONES

The telephones are of the magneto type of American manufacture. Overhead cables use the poles provided for the electric wires; the airport, which is ten miles from Belize, is connected by means of a metallic circuit. In Belize there are four 150-line manual switchboards but the towns in the districts have smaller equipment. The trunk lines are copperweld single conductors using ground return. They are:

Belize—Maskall, Orange Walk, Corozal, Consejo	..	109	miles
Belize—Roaring Creek, Cayo, Benque Viejo	.. ..	95	„
Belize—Stann Creek, Sittee, Monkey River	.. ..	90	„
Belize—Hill Bank (Belize Estate & Produce Co. Ltd.)		45	„

There were 526 telephones connected to the Belize Exchange and 120 telephones on the trunk lines.

Charges for telephones are:

Business	desk	\$14.00	each	quarter
	wall	\$13.50	„	„
Private	desk	\$ 8.50	„	„
	wall	\$ 8.00	„	„
Out-district telephones		\$11.50	„	„

Charges are:

- (a) for inland telegrams: two cents a word with a minimum charge of thirty cents.
- (b) for trunk calls: forty cents for each five-minute period.

Chapter XI: Communications

Up to a decade ago, almost the only means of communication in the Colony were the sea, the rivers and a number of bush trails. It is inevitable that these means will continue to play an important part in the life of the Colony; they must be used for the transportation of supplies to the settlements on the banks of the rivers, for no road scheme could contemplate linking up all the scattered communities.

RIVERS

The Belize River, which has always been the most important for logging purposes, is navigable, almost to the frontier with Guatemala, by doreys and other light craft for the greater part of the year, but, at all times, considerable ingenuity must be exercised to negotiate the numerous 'runs'.

THE SEA

Coastal villages in Southern Districts are served by a twice-weekly sailing from Belize of a small motor vessel, which, once a week also connects with the port of Puerto Cortes in Honduras to deliver and collect much of the surface foreign mails of the Colony. Regular services are similarly maintained to the Northern District settlements. Ships of the United Fruit Co. transport provisions and merchandise every two or three weeks from New

Orleans but the passenger service which operated before the war has not, as yet, been resumed. Small schooners provide a regular weekly service between Belize and the Florida port of Tampa. Ships from the United Kingdom have begun to call at monthly intervals, and there are fortnightly sailings between Jamaica and the Colony. The ships entering the Colony in 1949 numbered 726 with a tonnage of 167,875 compared with 810 in 1948 with a tonnage of 237,688.

Four steamship lines operated to the Colony during the year, particulars being as follows:—

<i>Line</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Frequency of Call</i>
United Fruit Co.	New Orleans, U.S.A.	Monthly
T. & J. Harrison Ltd. London	Liverpool and London	Irregular
Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.	Europe <i>via</i> Cristobal, Puerto Cortez and Puerto Barrios	Monthly
Cayman Island Shipping Co.	Kingston, Jamaica	Fortnightly

Of the above lines only the ships of the Cayman Island Shipping Co. take passengers. Passengers proceeding to the United States and places beyond travel by air. There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics. No mail contract has been entered into by any of the lines.

ROADS

Road-making is a difficult and costly process in most areas; in coastal districts swamps are the chief obstacle; inland, dense undergrowth is a difficulty. Until roads reach the hills of the interior, where quarries can be opened, stone is not easily obtained.

Prior to 1935, there were only thirty-five miles of 'all-weather' roads in the Colony which were considered at that date to be suitable for motor traffic. Today there are 226 miles of main roads (including the recently completed Belize to Cayo road) and 51 miles of feeder roads, all suitable for motor traffic. In addition there are approximately 48 miles of cart roads, some of which can be used by motor cars during the dry season, and 154 miles of government maintained bush trails.

AIR SERVICES

The Airport for the Colony was constructed some ten miles north west of Belize in 1943 and 1944, and the cost was met from a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant. The airfield is officially named 'Stanley Field' to mark the association of Colonel Oliver Stanley, who as Secretary of State for the Colonies opened the Terminal Building in January, 1945.

There is a grass airfield at Corozal which is available to light aircraft only. The one at Cayo has been officially closed. A landing strip privately owned by the Belize Estate & Produce Company is located at Mango Creek near Point Placencia in the Stann Creek District. Several unscheduled flights were made to this area during the year by Transportes Aereo Centro Americano (TACA).

There are four airline companies operating scheduled services to the Colony namely:

- British West Indian Airways (BWIA)
- Transportes Aereos Centro Americanos, S.A. (In Honduras) (TACA)
- Transportes Aereos Mexicanos, S.A. (TAMSA)
- Servicio Aereo de Honduras, S.A. (SAHSA).

BWIA which formerly operated once per week to Kingston, Jamaica, have increased their service to twice a week using Lodestars and Vikings. TACA operate a thrice weekly service to San Pedro Sula, while SAHSA, an affiliate of Pan American Airways, run a bi-weekly service on the same route. These companies use Lodestars and DC-3s. TAMSA continue their twice weekly service to Chetumal and Merida whence a connecting plane to New Orleans is available.

There are no scheduled services to the United States of America. Itinerants however, stop for refuelling, and on occasions TACA have made special direct flights to New Orleans.

Aircraft movements for the year amounted to 1,036.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

There are 32 post offices in the Colony. In 1949, the number of articles dealt with was 885,596. The value of internal money and postal order business amounted to \$78,185, and to \$126,136 for external transactions.

Telephone offices, which also transact telegraph business, number 72. The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Chetumal, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with other countries.

There is a wireless station in Belize for the transaction daily of radio-telegraph business with stations in other countries—Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City, Mexico City, New Orleans and Miami. Transmitting and receiving equipment, which provide aeronautical telecommunications service, are also installed at the Belize Airport. Excluding messages relating to the conduct of the service, weather reports, and press messages, 11,964 radio telegrams were transmitted and 11,233 were received in 1949.

Items of news interest and forecast for the Western Caribbean are broadcast daily at 12.30 p.m. from the Belize Wireless Station, ZIK2, on a wavelength of 28.31 metres. Storm and hurricane warnings are broadcast during the hurricane season from June to November.

The charges on radiograms to Great Britain, Eire, British West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, Canada, Newfoundland and to all points in the United States of America are as follows:

Ordinary (Full Rate)	..	..	per word	20 cents
Code (C D E)	..	..	..	12 cents
Deferred (L C)	..	..	..	10 cents

Night Letter (N L T)	.. ..	„	6½ cents	Minimum 25 words
(G L T)	.. ..	„	6½ cents	Minimum 12 words
Press U.K. (Press)	.. ..	„	2 cents	
U.S.A. (Press)	.. ..	„	6½ cents	

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works other than roads completed during the year included the construction of buildings for the formation of a Prison Farm at Gracie Rock, buildings for a Boys' Training School at Baking Pot Estate, new head office and laboratory for the Department of Agriculture at Baking Pot, new District Police Stations at Crooked Tree and Roaring Creek, new quarters for the District Commissioner at Stann Creek, new quarters for Senior Official, Belize; rebuilding of office and store at Rice Station, Toledo, extra accommodation of ten rooms at the Mental Hospital and improvement and extension of the Terminal Building at the Airport.

Colonial Development and Welfare projects in hand during the year were the construction of the Belize-Hector Creek Road, the provision of a temporary water supply for Belize, construction of a new Technical School in Belize, construction of a new road and quarters for Government Officials at the Central Farm, Baking Pot. The new suspension Bridge at El Cayo was completed and opened to traffic during the year. Work on Feeder Roads in the Belize and Northern Districts was put in hand and approximately 8 miles of road completed.

Chapter XII: Lands and Survey

Lands and Survey.

The plotting of the coastal plain from the aerial survey was commenced and progress is being made.

Various types of forest were classified and areas taken off of the existing aerial survey for use in a graduated system of land tax.

Baking Pot Central Agricultural Station was surveyed in detail, roads sited and a contour map supplied to the Director of Agriculture.

A reconnaissance survey of the Roaring Creek-Middlesex Road was commenced and approximately 18½ miles of the road located. Some 52 miles of reconnaissance traverse was necessary to locate this portion of the road. The reconnaissance survey should be completed by March 1950.

Fifty lots for Ex-Servicemen were laid out in the City of Belize.

Apart from these surveys over 100 parcels of agricultural land were surveyed, having an aggregate of over 2,000 acres and entailed the demarcation of some 100 miles of boundaries by theodolite and steel tape and 30 miles of road and river traverse; over 200 concrete pillars and 150 wooden posts were placed in position to mark the surveys.

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

British Honduras, 5,700 miles from the United Kingdom and 600 miles west of its better-known sister colony of Jamaica, lies on the mainland of Central America facing eastwards across the Caribbean Sea. With an area of 8,598 square miles, it is approximately the same size as Wales, and nearly twice the size of Jamaica. The Colony lies between North latitudes of $18^{\circ} 29' 5''$ and $15^{\circ} 53' 55''$ and between West longitudes of $89^{\circ} 9' 22''$ and $88^{\circ} 10'$. To the North and North-west, the frontier with Mexico is formed by the River Hondo. The frontier with the only other neighbouring republic, Guatemala, is, in the south, the River Sarstoon from the Gracias a Dios Falls to the sea, while a line drawn from these falls to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River and thence due North to the Mexican frontier on the Hondo forms the western boundary. The greatest length of the Colony from North to South is about 174 miles with a greatest width from East to West of approximately 68 miles. The coast of British Honduras is very well sheltered from the rough seas of the Caribbean by an almost continuous line of coral reefs and 'cays' lying at distances of from ten to forty miles from the mainland. The harbour of Belize is almost surrounded by sheltering reefs—a factor which has done much to promote the growth of the port as the most important in the Colony. North of Belize, coastal waters are unusually shallow with a general depth of not more than six feet. At Commerce Bight, three miles south of the town of Stann Creek, the deepest water in the Colony is found and until the pier was destroyed by a severe storm in 1941, medium sized, ocean going, vessels were able to berth alongside. For the most part, coastal lands are low and swampy and the northern part of the Colony is flat, large areas of land rising very little above sea level.

In the area south of Belize, there is a central mountain massif of a general elevation of 2,000—3,000 feet above sea level, comprising on the east, the Maya Mountain Range, and on the west, an area of pine ridge over 120 square miles in extent. The Maya Mountains, which include the Cockscorn Spur, possessing a peak of over 3,700 feet, are by no means fully explored, and difficulties of terrain are such as to make expeditions for detailed survey very costly.

The pine ridge provides some of the best scenery in the Colony, and the large tracts of open space suggest attractions for the tourist. Remoteness from rivers and roads would render the extraction of the pine an uneconomic proposition.

Numerous rivers, not all of which are easily navigable by any kind of craft, provided until recent times almost the only means of communication with the interior: the most important, the Belize River, can be negotiated in all but the very dry months by specially constructed motor boats of shallow draught, for 120 miles upstream. No thorough survey of the soil of the Colo-

ny has yet been made but it is believed that there are several uncultivated areas where profitable agriculture could be carried on, and there are similar hopes that a geological survey would not be found unproductive.

CLIMATE

In its climate, British Honduras is certainly favoured. Trade winds, blowing from the sea over a great part of the year, keep temperatures down, in coastal areas, to a level below that of such cities as New York and Washington in the summer months. Even in the hotter months of May to October the shade temperatures do not go over 96°. Inland, in the Western District, day temperatures may exceed 100° but cooler nights are experienced. During cold spells, which may occur between November and February, the temperature may go down in Belize to 50° though the mean for this period is nearer 70°.

Rainfall shows some sharp annual variations but the mean over the last five years is sixty-three inches in Belize. Average rainfall in the North is no more than about sixty inches while in the Southern District the yearly average is nearer 175 inches.

The climate of the Colony, which in the cooler months is particularly delightful, is quite suitable for people used to temperate zones and little, if any, impairment to health is suffered from prolonged residence. The high 3,000 feet plateau of the mountain pine ridge is quite suitable as a hill station, a project which may be realized when the major road programme is accomplished.

Chapter II: History of British Honduras

The incompleteness and the paucity of many of the records from which the history of British Honduras has to be gathered make research fascinating, but, at times, rather exasperating. The humidity of the climate has not favoured the storage of documents, but such as remain provide stories with a Ballantyne flavour of adventure.

Of the early settlement of the Colony by Maya Indians, much remains to be told; but there is ample evidence of considerable Mayan settlements all over the Colony which indicate that a population much greater than that existing at present was supported, though on a much lower standard. For the archaeologist, there is wealth of material to be unearthed.

Here, we are concerned with the history of the Colony following the discoveries in the Western Hemisphere in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Columbus is thought to have sailed down the coast in 1502, when he set out from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies.

The first Britons to set foot in the country are believed to have sailed from Jamaica about 1638. Finding abundant supplies of logwood, then much in demand for the manufacture of dyes in Europe, they began a settle-

ment which was maintained with fluctuating fortunes through 150 years of struggle and strife with the Spanish. It appeared that friendly relations and treaties between Britain and Spain made no difference to the local struggle and it was not until 1798 that an end to the skirmishes could be written.

By 1670 when Spain made a treaty ceding to Britain all lands in the West Indies and in any part of America held by the British, the settlement, near the mouth of the Belize River and at St. George's Cay, an island some ten miles east of the river mouth, included 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. About this time, the prosperity of the settlement was brought to the notice of King Charles II by a report of the Governor of Jamaica that it had 'increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies'.

An early reference to slaves was included in a report of an attack by the Spanish some distance inland at Labouring Creek in 1754, when it was said that, principally by their efforts, the raiders were repulsed. In 1779, the Spanish seem to have had some success when they captured and carried away a great many of the settlers at St. George's Cay. Subsequently, after suffering ill-treatment in Mexico and Cuba, the captives were allowed to return. A further development occurred in 1786, when, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain gave up her claims to the Mosquito Coast in return for Spanish recognition of the existing settlement in British Honduras, but this arrangement seems either not to have been brought to the notice of, or to have been disregarded by, the Spanish in the Caribbean area, as the attacks continued. In their final effort in 1798, they appear to have employed larger forces than ever before and little attention seems to have been given to achieving surprise for the local settlers had time for a number of parleys and to gather together their forces inferior in point of fighting strength. The action at St. George's Cay was decisive and final and, today, the anniversary is honoured by a public holiday accompanied by patriotic celebrations.

Events in Mexico from 1848 to 1867 had their repercussions in British Honduras, for the rebellion of the Indians of Yucatan in 1849 caused many Spaniards to settle in the northern part of the Colony. When in 1867 Mexico finally overthrew the Spanish administration, Indians made repeated raids into the Colony until a garrison of Imperial Troops finally made such incursions unremunerative.

From the very first beginnings of the settlement, until recent times, a greater measure of freedom to manage their own affairs appears to have been accorded to the people of British Honduras than was given to the settlers in other colonies. Until 1786, persons were appointed at an annual public meeting to act as Magistrates, on whom the responsibility of discharging executive and judicial functions devolved

The King in 1765 gave a 'constitution to the people' founded on their ancient customs, the most important of which were legislating by public meetings and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people. Admiral Sir William Burnaby, accompanied by Captain Cook,

was sent to the Colony to codify the laws and customs and to arrange for the inhabitants of the Colony to be put into full possession of their lands and associated rights.

Following the declaration of the settlement as a Colony in 1862, a Lieutenant-Governor, subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica, was appointed, and in 1870 he became the President of a newly constituted Legislative Assembly the composition of which included five official, and not less than four unofficial members.

Independence of Jamaica came in 1884 with the appointment of a Governor and a Commander-in-Chief.

The economic disaster, following a hurricane which overwhelmed Belize and the adjacent countryside in 1931, necessitated the seeking of the aid of the Imperial Exchequer and the subsequent surrender of the control of finance. As a result, major changes in the constitution were made in 1935 by the passing of the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, and, after amendments to this Ordinance in 1938 and 1945, the Legislative Council now consists of the Governor, as President, three official and ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated and six elected from five constituencies. The Governor was given power, in certain circumstances, to assent to any bill which the Council failed to pass.

The main economy of British Honduras has been based, since the first settlement, on her forests. By the time the demand for logwood declined, the mahogany tree had already become a more profitable export and it has remained for a century the principal forest product. Other exports from the forest have centred upon cedar, pine and the sapodilla tree, from which chicle gum is extracted. Coconuts have also been an important export.

With a forest tradition ingrained in him, the average British Honduran has not taken heed of exhortations to settle on the land, and indeed the experiences of some of the settlers have not been encouraging, for most of them have only eked out a meagre living. Bananas were flourishing when the Stann Creek railway project was begun in 1905 to improve transportation, but an imported disease has relegated banana growing to an insignificant position.

The citrus industry in the Stann Creek Valley is now well established and although during the latter half of the war a government subsidy to growers became necessary, due to temporary loss of markets, the original position had been regained toward the end of 1946. A sugar factory, erected in the sugar cane growing area in the northern plain in 1935, has not been productive of a high grade sugar, and it has not supplied, in entirety, the requirements of the Colony. Rum distilleries in the same neighbourhood produce a spirit which has only a local market.

The social development of the peoples of British Honduras has not, on the whole, been characterized by the sudden spurts which appear to have marked progress in other countries; rather, to the casual observer, has it been by almost imperceptible change year by year. The Education Ordinance of 1892

established a Board of Education, with the Governor as Chairman, to promote education, to provide for the administration of schools, and to allot grants in aid from funds voted by the legislature. In 1915 the Governor with the consent of the Board was empowered to declare compulsory school attendance areas. Noteworthy improvements in the standard of teaching recently have followed the provision of better training facilities and stimulation has come from the institution of annual Teachers' Vacation Courses.

Public Health appears to have received its chief impetus in the latter half of the last century, but administrators of the Public Health Ordinances are always somewhat discouraged by the absence of proper water supplies and sewerage systems. An improved water supply for Belize is being installed.

It was not until 1945 that a Social Welfare Officer was appointed, and he was gravely handicapped by the absence of any voluntary organizations on which he could found the nucleus of a Social Welfare Scheme. There were no handicrafts, no co-operative or marketing unions, and no village community centres; but there were Credit Unions, the first of which was established only a short time before he arrived. With the return from Jamaica of an officer sent for handicraft training, handicrafts were introduced to the main institutions, the Prison, the Mental Hospital and the Industrial School for boys, which has been established in the Stann Creek Valley in 1926. With the resignation of the first Social Welfare Officer, a Social Welfare and Development Officer was appointed and social Welfare work was associated with the development of the Colony.

Chapter III: Administration

The administration and government of the Colony devolve upon the Governor and an Executive Council, constituted by Royal Instructions given in 1936 and in 1945, and providing for three *ex-officio* members and of such persons, as the Governor may appoint in accordance with the instructions. At the close of the year, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary were the *ex-officio* members and there were four other appointments. Appointments are for a period of three years.

The Legislative Council, in its present form, is constituted by the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance of 1935 together with the amendment Ordinance of 1945; the composition, with the Governor as President, being three *ex-officio* members (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary, and the Attorney General) ten unofficial members, of whom four are nominated by the Governor in pursuance of Royal Instructions received in 1936 and 1945, and six elected from five constituencies, there being two members for the Belize District.

All questions are decided by a majority of the votes given, the Governor having an original, and also a casting vote, but of the greatest interest to Un-

official Members of the Council is the provision in the 1935 enactment of what are described as the Governor's reserve powers, which, briefly, give him the authority to declare his assent to any bill, resolution or vote, which he considers necessary in the interests of public order or good government, or to secure detailed control of the finances of the Colony, while financial assistance is being received from His Majesty's Exchequer. In making any such declaration, the Governor is required to inform the Council of his reasons and to report his action to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Governor may refuse to give his assent to any bill passed by the Legislative Council, or he may reserve his assent for the signification of the approval of His Majesty; no law is effective until it has received his assent.

The Judiciary consists of a Chief Justice and a Magistrate for the City of Belize. In the out-districts judicial functions are exercised by the District Commissioners. In addition, two or more Justices of the Peace may exercise the judicial functions of a District Commissioner. The Supreme Court consists of the Chief Justice, who is appointed by Letters Patent under the Public Seal of the Colony by the Governor. One of the officers of the Court is the Registrar General, who has power to administer oaths and take solemn declarations, or affirmations in lieu of oaths.

Justices of the Peace are appointed by the Governor by Warrant under his hand and under Public Seal; they may be appointed for the whole Colony, or for a district, or for a portion of a district. Similarly they may be removed by warrant.

Administratively the Colony is divided into five districts, of which the Belize District, containing the capital, has the largest population. The other districts are the Northern with headquarters at Corozal, the Western, whose administrative headquarters are at El Cayo, the Stann Creek District administered from Stann Creek town, and the Toledo District in the South with Punta Gorda as the only important town. The Commissioner for each district, excepting Belize, exercises the prescribed judicial functions and acts, at the same time, as Sub-Treasurer, Sub-Collector of Customs and District Postmaster. Except in one district the Commissioner is also chairman of the local Town Board.

Town Boards are constituted under the District Town Boards Ordinance of 1938, which gives power to the Governor in Council to add to, or delete from, the list of towns to which the Ordinance applies. Boards may be either wholly nominated, or partly nominated and partly elected: nominated members are appointed by the Governor.

A Town Board is required to meet each quarter and at such other times as required by its rules or when convened by the Chairman, who is appointed either by the Governor or from one of their number as he may direct. It is entrusted with the duty of attending to the good government of the town, and it may establish markets, slaughter-houses, baths and washhouses, may provide for public lighting, the naming and numbering of its streets, and carry on such other duties as the Governor orders by notice in the *Gazette*.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

The standard Imperial Weights and Measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, which places on the Superintendent of Police the duties of inspection of weights and measures at least once in every three months.

The legal standards to be used are:

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| (a) for articles sold by weight | | Imperial troy and avoirdupois |
| (b) for capacity (liquids and dry goods) | | Imperial gallon |
| (c) for capacity (goods usually sold by the bushel) | .. .. | Bushel of eight Imperial gallons or 80 pounds avoirdupois |
| (d) for extension | .. .. | Standard yard measure of 36 inches. |

A copy or model of the standards must be kept in the office of each District Commissioner and inspections are to be made at least once in every three months.

Chapter V: Newspapers and Periodicals

There are two newspapers published in the Colony, the *Daily Clarion*, a small one sheet evening issue and the *Belize Billboard*, a bi-weekly issue.

For official purposes, the *Government Gazette* is issued weekly and is available to private subscribers on payment of an annual subscription of five dollars.

There are no other regular publications and, in the main, people of British Honduras rely upon the wireless set and certain weekly American publications for their news of the world.

Chapter VI: Bibliography

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Brief Sketch of British Honduras. Revised by A. H. Anderson. 1944, Government Printer, Belize.

LIST OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE AT THE GOVERNMENT

PRINTING OFFICE, BRITISH HONDURAS

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1. Agricultural Report (Annual)25
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31.	Enquiry into the Educational System of British Honduras	1.50
32.	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure	1.00
33.	Government Gazette—single copies15
	subscription per year	5.00
34.	Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of British Honduras25
35.	Cost of Education10
36.	Social Welfare (a series of nine broadcasts made by the B.B.C.)10
37.	Report of the Development Planning Committee, 1946	1.00

MAPS

1. Cadastral Plan of Belize, 200 feet to 1 inch.
2. Sectional Map of the Colony, 4 miles to 1 inch.
3. Small Scale Map, suitable for reports.

A limited number of maps indicating annual and monthly rainfall, geology, alienation of Crown land, etc., is available.

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